

Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

We approach the coming year in a spirit of tremendous optimism and excitement. Despite the tough times for higher education we continue building on our strengths, and with more than 80 faculty we are now the country's largest department of history.

Each year our numbers edge a little further upwards. While always attentive to the vital core of what we do, our growth comes in large part from interdisciplinary opportunities, as our latest recruits eloquently attest. On the following pages you will meet six new faculty, each with a joint appointment. We also hope to complete a stellar appointment to our Alice Freeman Palmer Chair, made vacant last year by the retirement of our distinguished colleague Barbara Metcalf, current President of the American Historical Association. Barbara's successor will be appointed 100 percent in History.

Our wonderful Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies (EIHS) continues generating extraordinary intellectual excitement both inside the department and out. Its outgoing director Kathleen Canning deserves our most admiring gratitude for making the institute such a power house of ideas and activity. We are sure that Kathleen's successor Ronald Grigor Suny, the Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor

(continued on next page, Chair)

Sidney Fine 1931-2009

Sidney Fine, Andrew Dickson White Collegiate Professor of History and former chair of the department, passed away on March 31st. He leaves his beloved wife Jean, their daughters and grandchildren, and thousands of grateful students. For many decades he taught a two-semester survey of American history in the 20th century that was famous for his good teaching and attracted hundreds of students each term.

One estimate of the number of students who passed through his course over the years is 25,000 to 30,000; that may be conservative. Many students electing the course had a parent who had taken it, and a few families had three generations of Sidney Fine students.



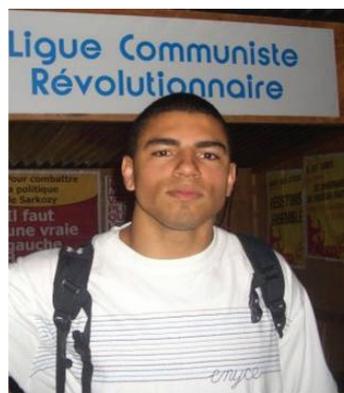
Photo courtesy of Michigan Daily

Professor Fine's teaching career at Michigan lasted for 53 years, believed to be the record. That long duration was a direct result of his popularity as a teacher. When he reached retirement age, he was honored with a dinner in the Clements Library. About the same time, former students in the state legislature led by Representative Joseph Schwartz promoted the Sidney Fine Bill which put an end to a mandatory retirement age in Michigan universities and colleges; it passed

by a huge margin. Sidney unretired, and continued teaching until age 80. Immensely magnetic as a teacher, he was also highly productive as a research scholar, publishing 12 books and dozens of articles, on US labor history, the history of Detroit and of

(continued on next page, Fine)

Scholar, Athlete, Communitarian



Chris McLaurin in Paris suburb 2008

Chris McLaurin has used every minute of his time at Michigan. A heavily-recruited star football player at Orchard Lake St. Mary's High School, and named all-state by the Detroit Free Press, Chris joined the Wolverines in 2005 where he had a distinguished career as tight end. In spite of a demanding athletic schedule, he concentrated in History, plunged himself into his studies, and won admission to the Honors Program. The program requires three terms of special courses, research in primary sources and the writing of a thesis. He chose to write on the history of St. Peter's Home for Boys in Detroit. His work, "Lift Up the Lad: The Struggle of One Group Home Amidst a City in Decline," won the John A. Williams Thesis Award.

(continued on next page, McLaurin)

(Chair's message continued)

of Social and Political History, will continue her fabulous work. Please see the EIHS insert in this newsletter with Ron's message and calendar of public presentations.

These efforts demonstrate our commitment to excellence in education. Last year we graduated 198 seniors as well as 17 fresh PhDs, who despite the terrible job market still secure good positions. We are constantly looking for ways to enrich the quality of our undergraduate and graduate programs, especially with a view to the new challenges of international education. With that in mind, we secured funding last year for a May Seminar on "Thinking and Teaching in Global Dimensions," spearheaded by Kathleen Canning and the Eisenberg Institute, in which Douglas Northrup partnered with Bob Bain of the School of Education to lead some 25 faculty and graduate students in an intensive exploration of forward-looking possibilities. This was a splendid first step toward an energizing process of curricular innovation.

All of the above could only occur thanks to the generous support of our alumni and friends and the collective commitment of faculty and graduate students, backed by the indispensable skills and goodhearted collegiality of our terrific staff.

With warmest regards,



Geoff Eley

(Sidney Fine continued)

Michigan, race relations and aging. Sidney earned many honors in his long and distinguished career, including the Russel Lectureship, one of the highest awards the university bestows, the Guggenheim, and honorary degrees from several universities. He was especially proud of having earned the Golden Apple Award for outstanding teaching, because it is awarded by the students. In recognition of that

teaching, students and admirers, led by David Evans, created the Sidney Fine Excellence in Teaching Fellowship honoring students who excel as graduate student instructors.

Sidney Fine grew up in Cleveland and did his BA at Case Western Reserve, where one of his teachers was a Michigan PhD and the only woman in the History Department, Marion Siney, who probably encouraged him to think of Michigan for

graduate work. (Sidney was a favorite student of hers, and she was very loyal to the department, funding a graduate student fellowship in her will.) He did an MA in Ann Arbor, and after serving in the Navy during World War II, (for which he studied Japanese and joined Naval intelligence in the Pacific,) he returned to Michigan for his PhD and was hired as an assistant professor in 1948. It was the beginning of an exceptionally long and successful career.

Our donors continue to help the Michigan History Department maintain its position as one of the top ten programs in the country. Thank you!

We welcome your ongoing or new support of these important funds:

- The History Graduate Student Fellowship Endowment (serves graduate students in all areas of study)
- The Sidney Fine Graduate Fellowship for Excellence in teaching (honors the late Professor Sidney Fine and supports outstanding graduate students)
- The Feuerwerker-Young Endowment for the Study of the History of China (established by students of Professors Albert Feuerwerker and Ernest young to support graduate students in Chinese History)

Please mail gifts to: University of Michigan History Department
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If you have any questions about giving, please phone (734) 615-0874.

(Chris McLaurin continued)

Perhaps even more impressive than Chris's accomplishments in athletics and scholarship is his commitment to community service. Professor Regina Morantz-Sanchez, who directed his honors thesis, says, "Though unquestionably a leader, Chris is also a delightfully engaging person, gentle, respectful of others, caring and kind. He has performed a wide range of service on campus...he is a Big Brother, ...and works closely with St. Peter's Home for Boys." His experience at St. Peter's led him to create, with ten other students, a non-profit outreach initiative which seeks to provide youth in foster care with positive student role models from the university, assisting them to reach their full potential socially and educationally. For this and other contributions, Chris was awarded the Martin Luther King Student Diversity Award.

Chris's community work resulted in his winning a competitive fellowship in 2008 for a trip to Paris with Humanity in Action, a foundation that sponsors international educational programs engaging student leaders in the study of human rights and the causes of intolerance.

Having graduated from Michigan, Chris will continue to use his considerable talents to help make the world a better place. He has won a Fulbright Scholarship, and plans to move to Johannesburg in October to work with the University of Witwatersrand on a program in collaboration with South African non-profits. Chris's project will involve determining best practices for The Tomorrow Trust and Cotlands, two organizations working with AIDS orphans.

We wish him continued success, and feel certain he will continue to make the most of his life.

Alumni News

Michael Abelson (MA 1966) is a diver with the New England Aquarium in Boston and harmonica player for the Dirty Mac Blues Band.

Thomas W. Burkman (PhD, 1975) research professor in Asian Studies at the University at Buffalo, has received a residency fellowship from the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at Notre Dame University for the Fall '09 Semester. Founded in 1986, the Kroc Institute is one of the principal centers for the study of violence and conflict resolution.

Nancy C. Carnevale (MA 1987) is an associate professor of history at Montclair State University where she teaches courses in the history of immigration, race, and ethnicity in the U.S., Italian American history, and U.S. women's history. She is the author of *A New Language, A New World: Italian Immigrants in the U.S., 1890-1945* (University of Illinois Press, 2009).

James Andrew Clark (BA 2008) is studying at the American University in Cairo in a master's program in Middle East Studies.

Zachary Colman (BA 2006) just got an iPhone and is pretty sure his life is going to change.

Nathan Connolly (MA 2003, PhD 2008) is currently an assistant professor of history at Johns Hopkins University.

Leonard Gordon (PhD 1961) is professor emeritus of Chinese History, Purdue University. He continues his professional research and writing and his latest book publication is *Confrontation Over Taiwan: Nineteenth-Century China and the Powers* (Lexington Books, 2007). He lives in Bloomington, IN with his wife, Marjorie.

Rachel Jackson (BA 2008) is an AmeriCorps volunteer at a community-based organization in the Lower East Side of Manhattan. She helps people find employment, assists them with food stamps, Medicaid, or other public

benefits, as well as helps them set goals/plans for their future. Rachel is going back to school to get her masters in library and information science at the University of Pittsburgh.

Mark R. Jacobson (BA 1990) completed his PhD at the Ohio State University in 2005. Mark was then recalled to active military duty and spent a year in Kabul, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He currently works on the Senate Armed Services Committee for Chairman Carl Levin (D-MI).

John Merriman (BA 1968, MA 1969, PhD 1972) is the Charles Seymour Professor at Yale University. His most recent book is *The Dynamite Club: How a Bombing in Fin-de-Siecle Paris Ignited the Age of Modern Terror* (Houghton Mifflin 2009). Tallandier in Paris published the French translation and JR Books in London will put forward the British version. He recently completed the third edition of his *A History of Modern Europe Since the Renaissance* (WW Norton).

Martha L. Minow (BA History, 1975) has been named the dean of Harvard Law School.

William Ritchey Newton (PhD 1974) published a new book with Editions Perrin entitled *Derriere la facade: Vivre au chateau de Versailles au XVIII e siècle* in September 2008.

Robert Rockaway (MA 1962, PhD 1970) is a professor emeritus, after 38 years of teaching at Tel-Aviv University. He is writing a number of articles for a book entitled *Jewish American Chronicle*. In addition, he recently appeared on the American Biography series documentary about the American gangster Mickey Cohen.

Tim Scarnecchia (BA 1985, PhD 1994) is an assistant professor of history at Kent State University. Tim and Rita Aggarwal have two kids, Mira and Sean. His book *The Urban Roots of Democracy and Political Violence in Zimbabwe: Harare and Highfield, 1940-64* was published by the Univer-

sity of Rochester Press in 2008.

Rose Mary Sheldon (PhD 1987) is Head of the Department of History at the Virginia Military Institute and has published her fourth book *Operation Messiah: St. Paul, Roman Intelligence, and the Birth of Christianity*, (London: Vallentine Mitchell, 2008).

Joel Thurtell (MA 1968, PhD 1970) retired in 2007 as a Detroit Free Press reporter. He coauthored a book published in April 2009 by Wayne State University Press called *Up the Rouge! Paddling Detroit's Hidden River*. The coauthor is Patricia Beck, a Free Press photographer. Pat and Joel canoed the Rouge River in Detroit as a Free Press writing and photography project that won the 2006 Harry E. Schlenz Medal for Public Education of the Water Environment Federation.

John A. Williams (PhD 1996) is editor of *Berlin Since the Wall's End: Shaping Memory and Society in the German Metropolis Since 1989* (Newcastle, UK: Cambridge Scholars Press, 2008). Williams is associate professor of Modern European History at Bradley University.

John Howard Wilson (BA History, MA English 1984, PhD English 1988) organized the Evelyn Waugh Conference, "Waugh in His World," in May 2008 at the Harry Ransom Center, the University of Texas at Austin. Waugh scholars and enthusiasts from Australia, Japan, France, Canada, England, and the USA attended.

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The History Department wants to hear from you!

Every newsletter includes alumni news. Please send us information about your current activities, interests and career moves. Simply go to our web site and complete the short on-line form.

Thank you.

Honors



Philip J. Deloria received a collegiate professorship, one of the highest honors from the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, which he named the Carroll

Smith-Rosenberg Collegiate Professor of History. He is a Professor in the Department of History, the Program in American Culture, and the Native American Studies program at the University of Michigan.

Charles Bright, Professor of History and Director of the Residential College, was made an Arthur F. Thurnau professor. These professorships are named after Arthur F.



Thurnau, a student at the University of Michigan from 1902 to 1904, and are supported by the Thurnau Charitable Trust. Mr. Thurnau wished to return to the university something of the value he gained from being an undergraduate on this campus. In that spirit and in his memory, the Thurnau Professorships recognize and reward faculty for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education.

Myron Gutmann, a historian at the University of Michigan and director of the Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, will head the NSF's directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences. While the National Science Foundation is best known for its

(continued on next page)

Staff Award

We are proud to report that for the second year in a row, one of the History Department's staff members was chosen to receive an LSA Spotlight Award for exceptional service. **Diane Wyatt**, who has worked at the university since 1986, serves as the department administrator and leads our 12 person staff in an extremely organized, thoughtful, and efficient way. In addition



(Photo by Richard Richter)

Diane gracefully works with 80 faculty members and their varying requests. All of Diane's interactions reflect her consideration and respect for others. In addition to her basic kindness, Diane has a wonderful sense of humor that lightens stress and promotes a friendly and fun office atmosphere. Thank you Diane for all that you do and congratulations on your well-deserved award!

Faculty Books

Published since September 2008

Juan Cole: *Engaging the Muslim World* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2009)

James W. Cook, Lawrence Glickman, and Michael O'Malley, eds.: *The Cultural Turn in U.S. History: Past, Present & Future* including essays by **James W. Cook** and **Philip Deloria** (University of Chicago Press, 2008)

C.G. Jung and the Sioux Traditions: Dreams, Vision, Nature, and the Primitive (Spring Journal Press, 2009) by Vine Deloria Jr. eds. **Philip Deloria** and Jerome Bernstein.

Dena Goodman: *Becoming a Woman in the Age of Letters* (Cornell University Press, 2009)

Stewart Gordon: *When Asia was the World: Traveling Merchants, Scholars, Warriors, and Monks Who Created the "Riches of the East"* (Da Capo, 2008).

David Hancock: *Oceans of Wine: Madeira and the Emergence of American Trade and Taste* (Yale University Press, 2009)

Gabrielle Hecht: *The Radiance of France: Nuclear Power and National Identity after World War II*, new edition (MIT Press, 2009)

Joel Howell: *Washtenaw County Bike Rides* (University of Michigan Press, 2009)

Deborah Dash Moore, ed: *American Jewish Identity Politics* (University of Michigan Press, 2008)

Wangari Muoria-Sal, Bodil Folke Frederiksen, John Lonsdale & **Derek Peterson**, eds.: *Writing for Kenya: The Life and Works of Henry Muoria* (Brill, 2009)

Derek Peterson and Giacomo Macola, eds.: *Recasting the Past: History Writing and Political Work in Modern Africa* (Ohio University Press, 2009)

Margaret R. Somers: *Genealogies of Citizenship: Markets, Statelessness, and the Right to have Rights* (Cambridge, 2008)

Tom Trautmann: *The Clash of Chronologies: Ancient India in the Modern World* (New Delhi, Yoda Press 2009)

Tom Trautmann, ed: *The Madras School of Orientalism: Producing Knowledge in Colonial South India* (New Delhi, Oxford University Press 2009)

Maris Vinovskis: *From a Nation at Risk to No Child Left Behind: National Education Goals and the Creation of Federal Education Policy* (Teachers College Press, 2009)

New Faculty

Stephen A. Berrey received his PhD from the University of Texas in 2006.



His fields of study include African American cultural history, the U.S. South, Black resistance and protest in the 20th century,

and the African diaspora. He joins the Department of History with a joint appointment with the American Culture Program.

Deirdre de la Cruz received her PhD from Columbia University in 2006. She joins the departments of



History and Asian Languages and Cultures after spending three years as a postdoctoral fellow at the Michigan Society of Fellows. Her current book

project is a historical and ethnographic examination of several apparitions of the Virgin Mary in the Philippines from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Additional research interests include theories of religion, colonialism and conversion, visual culture, histories and theories of the mass media.

Brandi Hughes received her PhD from Yale University in fall 2009. Her research concerns African American



religious and intellectual history across the turn of the 20th century, and she is completing a project that studies the entanglements of evangelical nationalism and diaspora in African American

missions to colonial Africa. Brandi Hughes joins the University of Michigan faculty as an historian of North American religions with a joint Program in American Culture appointment in the fall of 2010.

Michelle McClellan received her PhD from Stanford and begins an appointment this fall as assistant professor of U.S. and public history. She is especially interested in issues of place and memory, and has embarked on a



study of heritage tourism at the sites associated with the “Little House” books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. In her courses, McClellan, a Michigan native, encourages students

to engage in public and community history. McClellan also specializes in medical history, particularly the history of addiction.

Ellen Muehlberger received her PhD in Religious Studies from Indiana University in 2008. Her area of research is Christianity in late antiquity, with



specializations in Coptic and Syriac studies and theories of the religious imagination. She is currently revising a book “Angels in the

Religious Imagination of Late Antiquity”, and joins the faculties in History and Near Eastern Studies this fall after a year in the department of Religious Studies at DePauw University.

Daniel Ramírez received his PhD in American Religious History from Duke University in 2005. He arrives from Arizona State University and joins the University of Michigan



faculty as an historian of North American religions with a joint Program in American Culture appointment.

He has been a guest researcher at institutes in Mexico and the University of California San Diego. His fourteen publications and current book project, “Migrating Faiths: A Social and Cultural History of Pentecostalism in the United States and Mexico, 1906-1966” reflect his interest in the intersections of migration, religion, and culture, and in religious cultural encounter in Reformation, colonial and modern periods.

Honors continued

(Myron Gutmann continued)

grants in the physical sciences and technology, it is also a major player in the social sciences. The American Historical Association’s Web site noted: “It is most unusual for an historian to be appointed to this key position, so this appointment is a very welcome (and very well deserved) surprise.”

Transitions

Kali Israel is stepping down from the History Department Associate Chair as **Joel Howell** takes on this role.

The faculty Development Officer, **Tom Trautman** is handing off responsibilities to **Mary Kelley**.

Martin Pernick will assume the Director of Graduate Studies position that **Sueann Caulfield** previously filled.

EIHS Director **Kathleen Canning** has turned over responsibilities to **Ron Suny**.

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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Graduate Student Awards



Nathan Connolly's dissertation, *By Eminent Domain: Race and Capital in the Building of an American South Florida*, won the 2009 Arthur Fondiler Dissertation Award in History and was nominated for the Rackham Distinguished Dissertation Award and the Allan Nevins American History Dissertation Prize.



Lauren Hirshberg (*History, left photo*) and **Monica Patterson** (*Anthropology and History, right photo by D.C. Goings*) received Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Awards. No more than twenty winners are selected each year for their exceptional ability as teachers, mentors and advisors and for their growth as scholars in their programs.



The Regents of the University of Michigan

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