

Worlds of History at Michigan

“When I was a student at the University in the 1960s, the study of African and African-American history was virtually non-existent. Because nothing of this type was offered at Michigan, I went to the University of Wisconsin for graduate work in African History in 1963. . . . I am very pleased to see the global initiatives the History Department has developed.”

Steven R. Kalt, BA 1963

Even after WWII, studies at Michigan remained largely focused on Europe and North America. But as international networks have developed and graduate students flocked to U-M from around the world, that’s all changed.

The study of History has greatly broadened in two distinct ways. On one hand, our History faculty teach and do research in most regions of the world, so our students now also take courses about Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, and the Pacific. On the other hand, the new approaches of global history present still another perspective on what we see in the world and in the archive, and how the discipline itself is changing to keep up with an ever more connected but still fractious human society. Just how far History can take Michigan students and faculty will become clear in Department stories from this past year.

Graduate Student Awards



Alice Weinreb (PhD 2009) was awarded the Arthur Fondler Dissertation Prize for her “Matters of Taste: The Politics of Food and Hunger in Divided Germany, 1945-1971.”

To the Caucasus— Lessons for Life

On April 30, 2010, Robert Donia (PhD 1976) addressed the History Department’s annual Commencement. Graduating seniors and their families gathered to hear the lessons that one of Michigan’s PhDs had learned over a remarkable career. After completing his doctorate, Donia taught college and began to publish on the Balkans.

His scholarly pursuits continued even after he joined Merrill Lynch as a consultant and senior resident vice president based in Texas and California. Over the course of a highly successful career in finance, he has published three books, most recently *Sarajevo: A Biography*, which appeared in 2006, and more than twenty articles.

In his address, Donia posed a challenge: “You are now historians, and you should adopt that label, savor it, and wear it proudly.” As historians, he told them, “You now have the power to think innovatively, broadly and flexibly about the causes and consequences of historical change. You now have the capacity to excel at assessing the continuities and discontinuities that contribute to great historical transformations.” And, as he concluded, “Only by understanding and appreciating history, can our nation achieve a healthy, vigorous public discourse that defines our values and allows us to carry out our responsibilities as citizens of the strongest nation on earth.”

Continued next page



Robert Donia and his wife Jane Ritter



J. Frederick Hoffman

A Love of History... and the U-M

A cherished U-M experience has inspired a major estate gift, the largest ever received by the Department of History, from Patricia B. Hoffman, commemorating the academic roots of her late husband, J. Frederick Hoffman (AB '44), who died in 2003.

A history major at Michigan, J. Frederick Hoffman enjoyed a distinguished law career in Indiana. Honored by the Indiana State Bar for his pro bono work, he also received an official commendation by the state governor for his community commitment. During their lives, the Hoffmans gave consistently to the U-M, including programmatic support for the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Patricia Hoffman died in January 2009, and last fall the U-M received the initial distribution from her estate to establish the J. Frederick Hoffman Professorship in Medieval and Early Modern English History. Additional distributions will fund another endowed professorship and a graduate fellowship endowment, all of which will bear the name of J. Frederick Hoffman. The graduate endowment, which will provide additional packages of support, comes at exactly the right time, since budgetary constraints have forced us to decrease the number of students we are able to admit. The Hoffmans’ generosity substantially enhances our teaching and research programs.



Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends,

As our fellow institutions groan beneath the impact of hiring and salary freezes and cuts in academic programs, Michigan continues to be a beacon of wise stewardship, academic excellence, and all-round farsightedness. History's faculty, students, and staff have risen wonderfully to the challenges of leaner times, and we approach the future with optimism and many new strengths, in no small part due to the tremendous support from our friends and former students. Our Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies now provides the center for the Department's collective intellectual life, and we are the proud beneficiaries of three newly endowed chairs. Our students, undergraduates and graduates alike, benefit in countless ways from your generous commitment.

This year we welcome to the Department eight new faculty. **Mrinilini Sinha**, who holds the Alice Freeman Palmer Chair, works on South Asia, empire, and the global dimensions of citizenship and sovereignty in the 20th century. **Clement Hawes** specializes in 17th and 18th century English and Irish history and literature with an interest in colonialism and colonial theory. **Brandi Hughes** works on North American religions in their transatlantic and African dimensions. **Pamela Ballinger** specializes in 20th century southern Europe and holds our freshly established Fred Cuny Chair in the History of Human Rights. **Sebastian Prange** covers the social, cultural, and political history of Islamic commerce in the medieval Indian Ocean. **Erdem Cipa** works on state formation in the early modern Ottoman Empire. **Hussein Fancy** studies law, commerce, and war in the medieval western Mediterranean. And **Kathryn Babayan**, a specialist in the religion of early modern Ottoman Empire and Iran, is moving part of her appointment to History from Near Eastern Studies.

As these stellar appointments suggest, global history is very much the watchword of the present. We have been driving to expand and strengthen our attention to the widest international aspects of how we think and what we do. The May seminar

for faculty and graduate students "Thinking and Teaching in Global Dimensions" kick-started this process a year ago, and we are already seeing the benefits as we go forward with strengthening our undergraduate and graduate curricula. Nowadays, I believe, *any* period or topic may be approached for its global meanings and implications!

With warmest regards,

Caucasus, continued

Bob Donia learned these lessons himself as he used his historical understanding to larger ends—to foster greater understanding of the Balkans and advance human rights and international humanitarianism. In 1997 Bob was contacted by a prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and invited to give a summary history of the region as background to events cited in the indictment of a Croatian general. That role expanded quickly to include assessing documentary evidence and weaving the major documents into a coherent narrative of the times in which the alleged events occurred. For the subsequent twelve cases in which he has been involved, Donia prepared written submissions in advance of his court testimony, all of which were admitted into evidence. In his written submissions and verbal testimony alike, he has consistently defined his task: "to provide the court with a narrative of the historical context in which the alleged crimes took place and call upon the documentary record to put those events in historical perspective." Donia offered testimony in the trial of former Yugoslav president Slobodan Milošević in 2004 and most recently in the trial of Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadžić. Both men cross-examined Donia at length – Karadžić for what Donia characterizes as "a mind-numbing twenty-one hours."

Since 2001 Donia has been providing an historical introduction to US Army officers and enlisted soldiers (mainly from National Guard units) as they prepare to be deployed as peacekeepers to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. Yes, he reminded us, we still send approximately one thousand men and women to Kosovo every eight months. Bob has focused on parts of the region's

history that help explain the attitudes and behavior these soldiers will face from their first day. "I strive to convey the importance of understanding the unfamiliar context in which they will operate and to alert them to the dangers of assuming that history begins when their boots hit the ground." Donia also participates as a role player and observer in advanced training, the goal of which is to replicate the challenges soldiers will face and the difficult decisions they will confront.

Bob Donia's engagement with the Balkans has been woven into the pursuit of human rights and international humanitarianism. It is a pursuit that has been marked by an extraordinary generosity. Three years ago, Bob and his wife Jane, who has a law degree and is currently a flight attendant for American Airlines, established the Fred Cuny Chair in the History of Human Rights, an endowed chair that is designed to honor Cuny's achievements as a human rights activist. When Bob met Fred Cuny in 1995 while on a UN flight from Zagreb to Sarajevo, each of them was then 51 years old. Fred, as Bob recalls, "was a big Texan squeezing into a tiny seat on a small plane, but soft-spoken and understated in every other way." Bob recalls that he already knew of Cuny's contributions as an architect of large-scale international humanitarian aid. "I admired his courage and determination, and that of several family members, in delivering large pumps to the Sarajevo airport under hostile fire to supply the besieged city with water from internal sources." Cuny left Sarajevo later in 1995 and went to Chechnya, where he was killed by members of a rogue paramilitary group after unsuccessfully seeking to negotiate a cease-fire. When Bob and Jane began their search for ways to encourage the study of international law and humanitarianism at the University of Michigan, they decided to honor Fred Cuny's memory, knowing as they did that his life and work was an inspiration of selfless courage on a grand scale. They have gotten to know Cuny's parents, brothers, and son, and have seen that his values and commitments are shared by those who survive him. Bob and Jane are delighted that Pamela Ballinger will be this chair's first occupant, to help make Fred's dreams and their hopes a reality.

— Mary Kelley, Professor

From Uzbekistan to the Universe

Douglas Northrop, Associate Professor

The idea of teaching the world (the whole world) is daunting. I graduated from a PhD program that offered no training in world history, and I remain first and foremost a regional specialist in Central Asia. Yet over the last decade I have also pursued an adventure in this wider arena, most recently as part of the Department's "Global Dimensions" initiative. World history has pushed my thinking, writing, and teaching in new and unexpectedly fruitful directions, and I am not alone in this trajectory—no fewer than thirty-one (!) other History faculty have joined the Department's newest caucus, known, per Michigan tradition, by an acronym, GWITECC (Global, World, International, Transregional, Edges, Connective, Comparative). Last year we convened a May Seminar, "Thinking and Teaching in Global Dimensions," as an extended boot camp for faculty and graduate students interested in learning more about the field. The department has additionally hired terrific new colleagues with expertise specifically in world history, and the GWITECC caucus played a role this year in graduate admissions. The Eisenberg Institute runs an excellent series of speakers and workshops on topics of global scope. And a new graduate colloquium in world and global history will now be offered every year, along with a range of undergraduate surveys and colloquia.

These changes respond both to new intellectual developments in History and to important practical pressures. What is the intellectual rationale for developing the curriculum in a global direction? In this short space I can mention just a couple of key ideas. First, world history requires that historical work be situated in wider contexts. It requires scholars to talk about the forest, not individual trees; they thus rely on other historians who have already studied many different trees. For this reason global history has been criticized as over-generalizing, and perhaps methodologically suspect. But in fact this approach forces us to do things we should be doing anyway: putting scholarship into context (Why does this tree matter?), and speaking to wider and ideally multiple readerships. Yes, world history requires distilling vast amounts of evidence, and so it loses particularities and detail. But by taking a broad vantage, it also turns up insights that might otherwise be missed. Moreover, globally inflected history does not supplant or replace these other layers of analysis; rather, it adds another



A giraffe from East Africa, obtained by Chinese voyagers, 1414.

view, another set of contexts, and so enriches our understanding. Finally—crucially—world historians make a point of moving up and down through these various scales of time and space, showing as they go how the different arenas of investigation intersect and contribute to one another.

Second, our students have, like us, grown increasingly aware of the limits of the nation-state as a frame for historical knowledge. Our training has focused on documents and archives that tend to be preserved in national repositories, and requires linguistic skills that usually correspond to national vernaculars. When we examine our PhD students for the historiography of their field, it is usually defined nationally (British or Japanese or American history), or perhaps regionally (Latin America or modern Europe). These disciplinary practices reinforce one another, and taken as a whole they make it harder to see developments that occur partly—or entirely—outside any of these individual frames. Our students are clearly interested in border-crossing work of all kinds, and world history is one approach that emphasizes units of analysis that spill outside the nation-state and uses modes of investigation that highlight connections, encounters, exchanges, interactions, systems, networks, and comparisons—all approaches that work across and beyond state boundaries. Accordingly, the demand for courses, mentoring, and training that step outside customary areal fields has been growing sharply.

But besides the intellectual reasons, why is the "Global Dimensions" initiative taking hold now? For one thing, the State of Michigan has just added world history as a requirement

Continued next page



Mapa mundi, ca 1050

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:

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You may have seen the August 12, 2009 Newsweek article **In Search of Great Professors** by Dina Fine Maron that featured our own **Kathleen Canning**. Check out the full article: <http://www.newsweek.com/2009/08/11/in-search-of-great-professors.html>.



Ginger with Senegalese family members

Out of Africa . . .

Recent History honors graduate Ginger Cline loved her U-M experience, especially History 246, *Africa to 1850*, and History 247, *Modern Africa*. She taught English to Francophone Africans through a Residential College program at Detroit's Freedom House, a shelter for survivors of persecution from all around the world. Over her junior year, Ginger lived in Senegal with a 25-member family and attended classes with other American students. She came to see the importance of transportation in Senegalese cities. This became her honors thesis topic, and she returned to Dakar to do interviews with the help of a student-interpreter who speaks Wolof, the local language, about the public transportation system, *car rapide*.

Ginger was the first recipient of the Grossman Family Fund research award, an endowment set up in memory of the Grossmans' daughter, to allow U-M History students to conduct research away from campus. She is grateful for the Grossmans' support; her return to Senegal to do thesis research would otherwise not have been possible.

Uzbekistan to the Universe, *continued*

for all high-school graduates, and this means Michigan's teachers face a huge challenge, since few were trained in this curriculum. Members of GWITECC are working closely with the School of Education to design classes to train future teachers in the latest disciplinary expertise. Our PhD students, too, face a job market in which world history is one of the largest areas of demand—both as a primary specialization and as a supplementary qualification for any field of specialty.

Our students have already begun to compete in this new arena with distinction, and indeed some of the brightest young world historians are Michigan PhDs. The Eisenberg Institute last year featured two of our alumni, Kerry Ward (PhD '02) and Aims McGuinness (PhD '01), who spoke eloquently about their work and experiences. Both were hired to teach world history, although neither had formal training in this field at U-M; they, like me, taught themselves, partly through their dissertation research and partly by learning on the job. We intend to give our current students a head start, so they can avoid at least some of the bumps and bruises Kerry, Aims, and I got along the way. We have begun more systematic training that will help shape students' research plans and teaching skills, opening up perspectives that are variously connective, interactive, comparative, and transregional.

The new global courses are offered on the principle that at least once in an undergraduate career, students should have the chance to think about a big picture. What do these courses look like? The range of possibilities is vast, so let me give just two examples from my undergraduate teaching. These classes stretch me (and my students) far beyond the usual coverage of even a broad regional survey (like my own "From Genghis Khan to the Taliban: Modern Central Asia"). The first probably looks recognizable, though perhaps daunting in scope: History 240, *The World Since 1492*. The second, History 238, *ZOOM: A History of Everything*, takes the notion of a "big picture" to the largest imaginable extreme, putting an historical framework—the idea of tracing and analyzing change through time—around

the entire universe. But both classes situate particular knowledge into wider contexts and ask students to reflect on how details build on and contribute to each other. They also sensitize students to issues of scale, interaction, and starting points—to recognize how knowledge is being framed and presented all around them. They should be able to ask: what happens if we alter our starting point by ten years—or a thousand years? Or if we broaden the geographic scope to encompass neighboring countries, or zoom in to look at a particular city? How would the conclusions change? What would we gain—and what would we lose?

Stay in Touch!

www.lsa.umich.edu/history/update.asp

The History Department wants to hear from you!

Let us know your current activities, interests, and career moves, and whenever your address changes. Simply go to our web site and complete the short on-line form.

Thank you.

Alumni News

Elizabeth Jane Aikin (PhD 1988) has been named director of the Division of Research Programs at the National Endowment for the Humanities. **Judith Laikin Elkin** (PhD 1976) has published her third survey of the status of research in Latin American Jewish Studies. It appears in the *Latin American Research Review* vol. 45 no. 2 (2010). Earlier surveys were published by *LARR* in 1985 and 1995. **Ellen Herman** (BA 1979) is currently Department Head, Department of History, University of Oregon. She recently published *Kinship by Design: A History of Adoption in the Modern United States* (University of Chicago Press). **Thomas J. Hochstetler** (MA 1970, PhD 1980) left the presidency of Lewis & Clark College on August 1, 2009, to take up the position of Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of International Studies (History) at American University of Sharjah. **Deborah Kanter** (PhD 1984), now associate professor and chair of History at Albion College, recently published *Hijos del Pueblo: Gender, Family, and Community in Rural Mexico, 1730-1850* (University of Texas Press, 2009). **Isaac Land** (PhD 1999) edited *Enemies of Humanity: The Nineteenth-Century War on Terrorism* (2008) and published a monograph, *War, Nationalism, and the British Sailor, 1750-1850* (2009), both with Palgrave Macmillan. He has taught at Indiana State University since 2005, where he won a teaching award in Spring 2009. **Sherry Hood Penney** (MA 1961) currently holds an endowed professorship in leadership at the College of Management at the University of MA Boston. This summer Palgrave/Macmillan published her new book *Next Generation Leadership*.

IN MEMORIAM

William Baldwin (PhD 1972) was born in Lebanon, VA, and grew up in nearby Honaker. He graduated from William and Mary College (1966), and earned a PhD in history at U-M. Bill taught at the University of Kentucky, and in 1979 accepted a position as staff historian for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He lived in Washington, DC, retired in January 2009, and died of pancreatic cancer at age 65 the following August.

EISENBERG INSTITUTE

F O R H I S T O R I C A L S T U D I E S

September 2010

Dear Friends,

This fall we begin our sixth year of programming at the Eisenberg Institute. The Institute has become a center of intellectual exchange at the University of Michigan. And like other venerated Ann Arbor institutions – the Michigan Theater, Zingerman’s – we will maintain our high standard of presentations (and, economics permitting, hospitality). This year we continue and conclude our two-year theme “Paucity and Plenty.”

When we began last fall Bill Sewell of the University of Chicago started us off with an historical excursion through capitalism. This year Nelson Lichtenstein will carry that topic forward with a lecture and workshop titled “The Return of Merchant Capitalism.” Reflecting back into the nineteenth century and forward into the twenty-first, Professor Lichtenstein shows that now, as then, the manufacturing enterprise stands in a subordinate relationship to that of the merchant; commodity-like products are traded and sold on a global basis; and labor from the new “workshops of the world” is often squeezed, sweated, mobile, and unfree.

E I H S M i s s i o n S t a t e m e n t

The Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies aims to stimulate imaginative new scholarship and innovative teaching. It hopes to contribute to the study of history nationally as well as transmit new modes of historical understanding to successive generations of students. In so doing, the Institute seeks to enrich the department and university community generally and to help bridge the divide that tends to open between graduate student and faculty academic life.

For a return engagement, appropriate for this year of the World Cup, we are bringing back Laurent Dubois, who will show his lateral moves from football to the banjo to the history of Haiti. Elizabeth Thompson will give a lecture titled “Poor People’s Movements and the Cold War in the Middle East,” and Tony Ballantyne will come all the way from New Zealand to inform us about “Economic Systems, Colonization and the Production of Difference.” Our own Valerie Kivelson will share her work, “Torture and the Moral Risks of Excess in Muscovite Witch Trials;” and Matt Lassiter will present “Innocence Lost: Crime, Drugs, and Double Standards in Suburban America.” Our Global History Initiative will present a lecture by Karen Wigen, “A Malleable Map: The Unlikely Career of an Ancient Province in Modern Japan,” followed by a workshop on world history.



As you can imagine, we are grateful for all of your contributions to our Institute, which have allowed us to maintain quality programs, expand our outreach and secure our presence in the field. Alumni and donors are a vital resource, and we appreciate your support. We hope that you will join us this fall!

Cordially,
Ronald Grigor Suny, Director
Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Social and Political History

EISENBEG FELLOWS, 2010 - 2011

Residency Research Fellows

Charlene Boyer Lewis, Kalamazoo College (W11)
Alexander Day, Wayne State (F10)
Christine Evans, Wayne State (F10)
Karen Miller, LaGuardia Community College (F10)
Leslie Page Moch, Michigan State (F10)
Elizabeth Smith-Pryor, Kent State (W11)

Fall, 2010 Thursday Speaker Series

September 9-10

Nelson Lichtenstein, UC, Santa Barbara
"The Return of Merchant Capitalism"

September 23-24

Laurent Dubois, Duke University
Title TBA

October 7

Valerie Kivelson, University of Michigan
"Torture and the Moral Risks of Excess in Muscovite Witch Trials"

October 21-22

Elizabeth Thompson, University of Virginia
"Poor People's Movements and the Cold War in the Middle East"

November 4

Matt Lassiter, University of Michigan
"Innocence Lost: Crime, Drugs, and Double Standards in Suburban America"

December 2-3

Tony Ballantyne, University of Otago, New Zealand
"Economic Systems, Colonization and the Production of Difference: Thinking Through Southern New Zealand"

Please visit www.lsa.umich.edu/eihs for more information on fellowships and Institute events.

Faculty Fellows

Paulina Alberto
Stephen Berry
Tiya Miles
Peggy Somers
Michael Witgen

Post-Doctoral Fellow

Will Redfern

"Sukarno's Guided Democracy and the Takeovers of Foreign Companies in Indonesia in the 1960s"

Janey and Melvin Lack Fellows

Maria Paz Esguerra

"Interracial Romances of American Nationhood: Marriage, Migration, and Miscegenation Law in Early Twentieth Century California"

Monica Kim

"Humanity Interrogated: Empire, Nation, and the Political Subject in United States-controlled Prisoner of War Camps during the Korean War, 1942-1960"

Josh Mound

"Inflated Hopes, Taxing Times: Class, Race, Gender and the Economic Politics of the Long 1970s"

Kimberly A. Powers

"Constructing Legal Categories, Inscribing Cultural Differences: Family Law and Practice in Late 19th Century Central Asia"

Eisenberg Fellows

Davide Orsini

"Empire Without Guarantees. U.S. Military Bases as Spaces of Encounter: The Case of La Maddalena, Italy"

Colleen Woods

"Freedom Inc.": Independence, Security, and the Making of an American Cold War in the Philippines"

Faculty Books

Kathleen Canning, co-ed.: *Weimar Publics/Weimar Subjects: Rethinking the Political Culture of Germany in the 1920s* (Berghahn Books, 2010).

Rita Chin, Heide Fehrenbach, **Geoff Eley**, and Atina Grossmann, eds.: *After the Nazi Racial State: Difference and Democracy in Germany and Europe* (University of Michigan Press, 2009).

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

Mary Kelley and Robert Gross, eds.: *History of the Book in America. Vol. 2: An Extensive Republic: Print, Culture, and Society in the New Nation* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010).

Matthew D. Lassiter and Joseph Crespino, eds.: *The Myth of Southern Exceptionalism* (Oxford University Press, 2009).

Victor Lieberman: *Strange Parallels. Vol. 2: Mainland Mirrors: Europe, Japan, China, South Asia, and the Islands* (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Tiya Miles: *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010).

Farina Mir: *The Social Space of Language: Vernacular Culture in British Colonial Punjab* (University of California Press, 2010).

Rudolf Mrázek: *A Certain Age: Colonial Jakarta through the Memories of Its Intellectuals* (Duke University Press, 2010).

Brian Porter-Szűcs and Bruce Berglund, eds.: *Christianity and Modernity in Eastern Europe* (Central European University Press, 2010).



History Space Renewed

History Department talks have been attracting so many people – folks spilling over into the hallway in violation of fire code – that we really needed to expand. The college's design team developed a color scheme that uses a special glass to give the department a unique identity. We appreciate Dean Terry McDonald's appropriating the necessary funds for this major renovation.

We warmly welcome our alums and friends to visit when you are in the area!



Tom Trautmann, collecting material for his book on elephants in Indian history, stalks the wild rhinoceros with wife Marcella and son Robert in Kaziranga National Park, India.

For more Faculty News, go to the History web site:

<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/history/facstaff/facnews.asp>.

Honors

David Hancock's

2009 book *Oceans of Wine: Madeira and the Emergence of American Trade and Taste* has been awarded the **Louis**

Gottschalk Prize of

the American Society for 18th-Century Studies and the **Gourmand Book of the Year Award**.

Tiya Miles' article "Circular Reasoning: Recentering Cherokee Women in the Anti-removal Campaigns," in the June 2009

American Quarterly has been awarded the **A.**

Elizabeth Taylor Prize by the Southern Association for Women Historians.

Retirements

This past year saw the retirement of five esteemed colleagues—**Carroll Smith-Rosenberg**, **Thomas Green**, and **David William Cohen** in 2009; and **J. Mills Thornton** and **William Rosenberg** in 2010. We are grateful for their many years of service and friendship, and wish them an interesting and engaged future!

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Terrence J. McDonald, Professor of History and Dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, addressed President Barack Obama, Governor Jennifer Granholm, and the University of Michigan graduating class of 2010 at Commencement.