



**COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES**

Department of History

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Dear Friends of the UI Department of History:

As we finish the spring semester, I thought I'd take a few minutes to send an update on Departmental happenings – and to thank you once again for your support.

We've been privileged to welcome Keisha Blain to our faculty ranks this year. Prof. Blain is a specialist in African-American history and the modern African diaspora. She is also a prominent public intellectual: her development of social media platforms for providing historical context to racial violence has attracted international attention from news outlets including *BBC*, *NPR*, *The New York Times*, and *The Los Angeles Times*. We look forward to the arrival next fall of Matthew Noellert, a digital historian with a specialty in modern Chinese history. Balancing these arrivals are some bittersweet departures. This spring marks the retirement of medieval Europeanist Constance Berman and South Asian specialist Paul Greenough, both of whom have made a major mark in the profession and in our department.

Our activity in public history continues to grow. Our graduate public history collaborative, History Corps (with faculty advisor Jacki Rand), won major funding for a digital mapping project entitled "Iowa Native Spaces" and will do fieldwork with the Meskwaki nation this coming summer. Graduate student Heather Wach and Special Collections librarian Collen Theisen created a series of short videos entitled "If Books Could Talk," which help audiences to understand medieval manuscripts – with a good dose of humor. Undergraduate research will be featured in a fall 2016 exhibit in the Old Capitol Museum on "German Iowa and the Global Midwest," which will travel the state in 2017. Be sure to check out these projects and more at thestudio.uiowa.edu/historycorps and germansiniowa.com.

In addition to their scholarly work and their activity in the classroom, our faculty continue to make an impact on campus and in the larger public. Here are just a few examples:

- **Ty Priest** spoke on the history of oil on many media outlets, including NPR's Marketplace Weekend Edition. He is the winner of the 2016 award for Distinguished Achievement in Publicly Engaged Research, presented by the Office of the Vice President for Research and Economic Development.
- **Mariola Espinosa** integrated the latest developments regarding the Zika virus into her course on the history of medicine. She was awarded the May Brodbeck fellowship for her research into the impact of yellow fever, and the fight against it, in the Caribbean.
- **Linda Kerber** (emerita) co-authored a "Historians' Brief" for consideration by the Supreme Court in *Whole Women's Health v Hellerstadt*. Numerous news outlets devoted coverage to the Historians' Brief.
- With the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, **Elizabeth Heineman** shared her expertise on German women's experience of the end of the war with media outlets in Germany, Great Britain, Canada, and the US.
- **Paul Greenough** co-directed the university's Global Health Studies Program, whose faculty and students make an impact worldwide. Next year he will pursue research on environmental history in India with a Fulbright fellowship.

Our students continue to excel. Thanks to our donors, we have a robust slate of departmental grants to fund undergraduate and graduate work – activity that has led to superb undergraduate and graduate theses, top graduate school placements for our B.A. recipients, and jobs that make a difference. Knowing the success of our graduates, we weren't surprised by a recent study by the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University showing that history majors go on to earn better salaries than majors in any other humanities field. Here are a few examples:

- **Quinn Hejlik** (2015 B.A.) was a Presidential Scholar, dual major in History and International Studies, and Honors Liaison to the Iowa City Foreign Relations Council. He is spending 2015-16 as a Fulbright scholar in Russia and plans to earn a Ph.D. in Russian history.
- **Taylor Finch** (2015 B.A.) completed an Honors Thesis on Iowa City's musical counterculture during the Vietnam War. She is expanding her expertise in public history by working at the UI Pentacrest Museum and the National Czech and Slovak Museum this year. In fall 2016 she will begin an MA program in Public History at the University of Massachusetts at Boston.
- **Abigail Weaver** (2015 B.A.) completed an Honors Thesis on the public library movement in Iowa. She is now earning a Master of Science degree in Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois and working as a librarian at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC.
- **Noaquia Callahan** (Ph.D. in progress) is researching a dissertation on African-American transnational feminism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She is currently a fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington DC and will spend next year in Germany as a Fulbright scholar. Together with **Sylvea Hollis** (Ph.D. in progress), she educated lawmakers about the humanities as part of the National Humanities Alliance Advocacy Day.
- **Katherine Massoth** (Ph.D. 2016) completed a dissertation on gender roles, cultural practices, and ethnic identity in the US-Mexican borderlands. Among her many awards were a fellowship at the Huntington Library in Los Angeles. This fall she will take up a position as Assistant Professor in Borderlands History at the University of Louisville.
- **John McKerley** (Ph.D. 2008) is historian and lead interviewer for the Iowa Labor History Oral Project (ILHOP) at the University of Iowa's Labor Center. In 2015 he and Center Director Jen Sherer won an Archie Green Fellowship from the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress to record oral histories of recent immigrant and refugee meatpacking workers in Iowa.

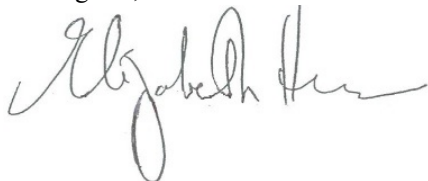
And of course, our graduates continue to shine over the course of their careers. To give just a few examples: **Rob Hogg** (B.A. 1988) is a member of the Iowa State Senate and is now mounting a run for the United States Senate. **Margot Canaday** (B.A. 1992) is an Associate Professor of History at Princeton University and a prize-winning author. In fall 2016, we will welcome **Mark Milosch** (Ph.D. 2002), Chief of Staff at the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, back to campus as an Alumni Fellow.

I am happy to announce the inauguration of the Jake Hall Scholarship, which will provide funds each year to a graduate student encountering serious financial need. The scholarship, which is jointly administered by History and the Campaign to Organize Graduate Students (COGS), honors labor historian Jake Hall, who tragically died shortly after receiving his PhD from our Department in 2013.

Finally, I want to share the wonderful news that Departmental Administrator **Pat Goodwin** has been recognized with the Mary Louise Kelley Award for Staff Excellence. Many of you will remember Pat from your days in Schaeffer Hall, and you'll know how deserving she is of this award.

We're always very glad to hear from our graduates, so please do send updates on your activities. In the meantime, if you'd like to catch up on departmental activity, please take a little time to browse our website, <http://clas.uiowa.edu/history/>. Thanks again for your support.

Best regards,



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