

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

May 3, 2012—Editor, Edward M. Anson



History Department Hires Two New Faculty



Dr. Susanah Romney

Susanah Shaw Romney will be joining UALR as an assistant professor this Fall. She will teach Early America in the Department. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell University, where she worked with Prof. Mary Beth Norton, concentrating on the colonial past in North America. Susanah's research focuses on the seventeenth-century Dutch empire. Her first book, under contract with the Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture series at UNC press, looked at social networks in the Hudson Valley and Amsterdam. Her current research investigates claims to space along cross-cultural frontiers throughout the Dutch world, from Manhattan to Cape Town to Jakarta. In the fall, she will be teaching the US History Survey and a course on Frontiers in Early America.



Dr. Barclay Key

Also joining the faculty of the History Department this Fall is Barclay Key (Ph.D., University of Florida, 2007), who for the past four years has taught African American History and the History of the American South at Western Illinois University. Dr. Key is the past recipient of a Fulbright Lecturing Award to Poland for 2009-2010. *Race and Restoration: Churches of Christ and the Black Freedom Struggle* is currently under contract with American History and Culture series at Louisiana State University Press. Dr. Key is currently working on a manuscript tentatively titled, "The Colors of Confession: Racial Reconciliation during the Long Civil Rights Movement."

History Majors Receive Scholarships and Awards

Richard B. Dixon Scholarships went to Stephanie Mantell (\$3000), Cody Berry (\$2000) and Ashlyn Escalante (\$2000). Those receiving the Craig E. Powell Memorial Awards were James Overturf (\$3000), Samuel Cate (\$2000), Kasondra Adkins (\$2000), and James Lloyd (\$2000). Mason Qualls received the Booker Worthen Memorial Scholarship (\$3000), and the Dr. Edward Madden and Lucy Dorothy Anson III Award for the Best Graduating Senior (\$200), to Sarah Dunlap.

History students also fared very well in the recent Undergraduate and Graduate Research Expos on April 16. Sarah Dunlap, advised by Dr. Maguire, won Third Prize in the Undergraduate Social Science Category for her poster on press coverage of the Iranian hostage crisis. Ms. Dunlap has also received a Middle East Studies fellowship from U of A Fayetteville, where she plans to pursue her MA. Maxwell Deaton, advised by Dr. Kaiser, won an Honorable Mention in the Undergraduate Humanities Category for his poster on Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

The “History and Geography of China” course takes students to China



During Spring Break 2012, Dr. Jeff Kyong-McClain, Dr. Jess Porter and Dr. John Kirk led thirteen undergraduate students (from History and other departments in the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences) on a ten-day tour of the People’s Republic of China. The trip was in conjunction with Dr. Kyong-McClain and Dr. Porter’s course, the History and Geography of China, which was taught in part in a UALR classroom and part overseas. Participants learned about ethnic and regional diversity, urbanization, modernization and the place of historical memory in contemporary China. The group began the tour in southwestern China’s leading metropolis, Chengdu, where they visited the Panda Research Base, Sanxingdui bronze-age site museum and the Daoist Qingcheng Mountain. The group then spent two days at UALR’s partner institution, Southwest University of Science and Technology in Mianyang, where they toured the Beiquan Earthquake site and engaged in cultural exchange with SWUST students, learning traditional Chinese art, music and martial arts from new friends. From there, the party moved to Xi’an and visited the Terra Cotta Warriors and the Muslim Quarter of the Old City. The last stop was Beijing, where students toured the Temple of Heaven, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall and the 798 Arts District. For most of the trip, the group relied on public transportation and ate at small local eateries, and so obtained some small sample of “daily life” in China. By the end of the trip, the students were impressed both by China’s long history, and by China’s rapid modernization, but also well aware of the environmental and human costs of the growth. All were awakened to the urgent need for Americans (and Chinese) to avoid parochialism in worldviews, and several students intend to contribute to further Sino-U.S. exchange by returning to China for either the short or long term.



The UALR History Department has played a major role in the Rockefeller Centennial Celebration events to mark the one-hundredth year of former governor Winthrop Rockefeller's birth. History faculty member and Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Deborah Baldwin is co-chair of the event alongside Winthrop Rockefeller Institute CEO Christy Carpenter. Department Chair John Kirk is also a member of the Centennial Coalition Executive Committee.

At the end of March, Dr. John Kirk wrote a piece on Rockefeller's 1966 gubernatorial election victory in the *Arkansas Times* special edition on the "The Legacy of Rockefeller." On April 4, there was a reenactment of Rockefeller's landmark speech in the wake of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination on the steps of the state capitol, attended by both Dean Baldwin and Dr. Kirk.

Dr. Kirk also attended and gave a presentation at a conference on Rockefeller and Political Reform at the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, April 12 and 13.

Dr. Kristin Mann and Rockefeller Elementary technology specialist & UALR alumna Gina Khoury co-authored a \$10000 grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council to fund an exhibit "Rockefeller Elementary Celebrates Governor Rockefeller," books, and web-based materials created by students and teachers. Dr. Mann, graduate student Allison Yocum-Hiblong, and the UALR Center for Arkansas History and Culture assisted in the development of the exhibit, which opened on April 13, and will run through May 26 in the Mezzanine Gallery of the Arkansas Studies Institute. On May 1, Dr. Mann and Ms. Yocum-Hiblong attended along with the Winthrop Rockefeller Institute, and Doyle Webb of the Republican Party of Arkansas with Rockefeller Elementary students and faculty at Rockefeller Elementary (700 East 17th St., Little Rock) in a 100th birthday party for the former governor.

And there is still plenty more to come! On May 11 and 12 the UALR History Department and UALR Center for Arkansas History and Culture will co-host a conference on "Race and Ethnicity in Arkansas: Perspectives on the African American and Latina/o Experience." The conference takes place at the Darragh Center in the Main Public Library on 100 Rock Street.

Friday, May 11 (6.30 p.m.) features a plenary talk by Pulitzer Prize-winning Douglas Blackmon, author of *Slavery by Another Name*, with a reception and book-signing to follow.

May 12 (9.30-6.00 p.m.) features fourteen local and national experts on race and ethnicity in Arkansas speaking on four panels which deal with the themes of *From Slavery to Freedom in Arkansas*, *Women, Religion and Place in the African American Struggle*, *Race and Violence in Arkansas*, and *the Latina/o Experience in Arkansas*.

The event is free and open to the public, so come along!

Public History

Students in the Department's Public History MA program won two awards this semester. Sarah Riva won the Arkansas Historical Association's Lucille Westbrook Local History Award for the best manuscript article on a local Arkansas topic. Her article "Desegregating Downtown Little Rock: The Field Reports of SNCC worker William "Bill" Hansen, October through December 1962" was written in her first semester at UALR and will be published in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly later this year. Sarah Riva and Dewey Dykes won First Prize in the Graduate Humanities Category of the UALR Research Exposition for their poster on legislation and court litigation during the Little Rock school crisis of 1957. Both Sarah and Dewey are working on MA thesis projects on civil rights in Arkansas with John Kirk.

On May 1, Alpha Epsilon Lambda, the Academic Excellence and Leadership Honor Society of Graduate and Professional Students, inducted four of our Public History graduate students into the society: Jennifer Boykin, Jennifer Pierce, Kimberly Wessels, Amanda Whitley.

Faculty News

Edward Anson, Professor of History, currently has two books in press, both due to be published next May, and is working on a third. He also chaired the Senate's Faculty Governance Committee, which reviews all departmental by-laws to ensure that they comply with Board and University policies, and also protects the rights of individual faculty members; is a member of the Chancellor's Undergraduate Curriculum Review Task Force, and this spring semester also in this regard served on the Humanities Task Group; and serves as a faculty senator. He gave a presentation to the University History Institute, titled, "Counter-Insurgency and the Lessons of Alexander the Great."

Clea Bunch, Associate Professor of History, was promoted to this rank of Associate Professor and tenured. She is currently working on a chapter about President Reagan's Middle East policy for the series *Major Problems in American Foreign Policy* "A Companion to Ronald Reagan," edited by Andrew Johns, for Wiley-Blackwell.

Thomas Kaiser, Professor of History, published, "The Public Sphere: In Search of the 'Shadowy Phantom'" in William Doyle, ed. *The Oxford Handbook of the Ancien Régime* (Oxford U. Press, 2012), 409-28; delivered a paper to the Society for French Historical Studies, "Abandoning Dynasticism and Imagining Counter-Revolution: The Nootka Sound Crisis and the Recasting of Foreign Policy in the Early French Revolution," on March 23; gave a comment on Panel "Law and Economy in the French Revolution," to the Society for French Historical Studies, on March 24; gave a public lecture, "Diamonds were not a Queen's Best Friend: Marie-Antoinette and the Diamond Necklace Affair," to CALS Thompson Library on March 27

Jeff Kyong-McClain, Assistant Professor Chinese History, in Spring 2012, taught World Civilization I, People's Republic of China, Asian Thought (for the Donaghey Scholars), and co-

taught the History and Geography of China, a class which included ten days of study in China (see related article above). He spoke at the March Evenings with History event on Arkansas-born missionary and anthropologist D.C. Graham, who will shortly have an entry in the Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture. Outside of UALR, he spoke several times on China-related themes to students of the Little Rock School District and to teachers both of LRSD and other districts. On the research front, his focus was on editorial work for the volume, *Chinese History in Geographical Perspective*, due out in 2013, and on a paper on Tibet he is preparing for the World History Association conference this summer. A book review appeared in *Church History*.

Moira Maguire, Associate Professor of History. Her book *Precarious Childhood in Post Independence Ireland*, published by Manchester University Press, is coming out in paperback this summer.

Kristin Mann, Professor of History, April 27, gave a talk, entitled “Música y danzas en las entradas y misiones del norte de la Nueva España, siglos XVII-XVIII,” via videoconferencing for the Seminario de Música en la Nueva España y el México Independiente at the National University of Mexico (UNAM) Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas. Also, above, “Winthrop Rockefeller, Centennial Celebration.” See also, above, “Winthrop Rockefeller, Centennial Celebration.”

Johanna Miller Lewis, Professor of History, Associate Dean of the Graduate School, has received two grants for the Stabilization and Restoration of the Japanese American War Relocation Cemetery at Rohwer, Arkansas: \$250000 from the Japanese American Confinement Sites program for the National Park Service and \$25000 from the Darragh Foundation, Little Rock, AR. Public History grad student Tamisha Cheatham wrote the grant to the Park Service and is assisting Dr. Lewis with the project.

Carl Moneyhon, Professor of History, published “The Democratic Party, the Ku Klux Klan, and the Politics of Fear,” in Kenneth Howell, ed., *Still the Arena of Civil War: Violence and turmoil in Reconstruction Texas. 1865-1874* (Denton: University of North Texas Press, 2012), pp. 243-65. He has continued to be involved in a wide variety of projects related to the Civil War Sesquicentennial. This includes panels on “Did the Confederacy Ever Have a Chance?” at the Mid-America Conference on History and “The Meaning of the Civil War and Its Immediate Aftermath for Texans” for the Walter Prescott Webb Society's annual convention. He also has done film shoots for the Old State House's “Wall of Fire” exhibit and for a documentary on “David O. Dodd and the American Civil War.” “The Civil War in Arkansas” was the topic for a workshop for high school teachers held at Central High School. The highpoint of the lecture season was a vicious attack upon positivist history at the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers in a lecture entitled “Searching for Johnny Reb and a Usable History: A Historian's Journey.”

Jess Porter, Assistant Professor of Geography, published his second teaching text with Pearson in 2012. “Encounter Human Geography” utilizes digital globes and multimedia content to teach concepts of human geography. He also published “Lessons from The Dust Bowl: Human-Environment Education on the Great Plains” in the *Journal of Geography*. He gave an invited lecture on the Great Plains environment to the College of Engineering and Environmental Science at Southwest University of Science and Technology in Miangyang, China and presented at the Southwest Association of American Geographers in Austin, Texas on patterns of segregation in Little Rock. His Dust Bowl research was featured in a new program called “Worst Weather Disasters” on The Weather Channel. Lately, Jess has been working on two proposals for the National Endowment for the Humanities related to his Dust Bowl research.

Charles Romney, Assistant Professor of History and Coordinator of the Public History Masters Program, gave a talk in the “Evenings with History” series on human rights in March. During the

spring semester he delivered invited lectures at Boston University and the Claremont Graduate School. Charles also presented a paper on “public history online” to the joint annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians and the National Council for Public History.

Laura Smoller, Professor of History, is currently on sabbatical; her book manuscript is currently under review at Cornell University Press; she reviewed a book manuscript about Renaissance astrology for Brill; will be going to Rome in early June for a small, invitation-only workshop called “Approaches to Hagiographic Sources. Miracle Collections, 12th - 15th Centuries. Structures and Functions,” to be held at the Institutum Romanum Finlandiae (Villa Lante), with the conference proceedings to be published later. She is the only American who was invited. Her paper is called “Choosing Miracles for St. Vincent Ferrer,” and she is currently working on a paper abstract for next year's Medieval Academy for a proposed panel on Gender and Vice.

Vince Vinikas, Professor of History, is working on a study of “The Propaganda of Total War,” examining techniques of mass persuasion employed by warring nations during World War II. Last Fall, he also had the opportunity to explore archeological sites in Mayan Meso-America, including Palenque, Chicanna, Calukmul, Uxmal, Chitzen Itza, Becan, and Xpujil. His course on “The Indian in American History” will be offered this summer.