

UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

April 20, 2015—Editor, Edward M. Anson



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UALR Students Travel to China



Jeff Kyong-McClain, Jess Porter, and John Kirk traveled with twelve UALR undergraduate and graduate students to China for the overseas portion of the History Department's 2015 study abroad course. Topics in Chinese History and Geography was led by Dr. Kyong-McClain with assistance from Dr. Porter and Dr. Kirk.



The Fearless Leaders (left to right: John Kirk, Jeff Kyong-McClain, and Jess Porter)

In this, the second iteration of the China study abroad course, the UALR entourage traveled to four primary destinations: Shanghai, Chengdu, Yibin, and Beijing. Highlights from the 10-day trip included a visit to the Panda Research Station, a hike up a Daoist mountain, an afternoon in a very off-the-beaten-path village, and a stroll through Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City. The plentiful and affordable Chinese cuisine was enjoyed by professors and students alike. From the hot pots and barbeque of Sichuan to the stir-fries of the East, food was never more than an itinerary point or two away. In 2016, Korea will be the destination for the History study abroad course. Participants in this year's course offer their sincere gratitude to the Formica family for underwriting a portion of the student travel costs.

Faculty News Congratulations!!!

Jess Porter
Tenured and Promoted
to Associate Professor



Kristin Dutcher Mann
Promoted to Professor



Jeff Kyong-McClain
Tenured and Promoted
to Associate Professor



The Department Welcomes Dr. Brian Mitchell



The Department wishes to welcome Dr. Brian Mitchell to the Department, as a new Assistant Professor of American History, beginning in the Fall of 2015. Dr. Mitchell has a PhD from the University of New Orleans in Urban Studies and Public History, and comes to us with wide experience as a teacher, civil servant, and as an active volunteer in numerous community organizations. The Department is currently also in the process of searching for a new historian of the Middle Ages.

News of the University History Institute

The University History Institute's spring program included well-attended lectures by Professors Jeff Kyong-McClain on the Chinese Cultural Revolution, Kristin Mann on remembering the Alamo in textbooks, and Barclay Key on the Selma March. A spring Fellows and Life Members dinner was held in April at Acadia restaurant and featured Professor Kathy Nasstrum of the University of San Francisco who talked about her research on the Little Rock Crisis in memory. The annual Fellows Reception will be held in May with former Congressman Mike Ross as the featured speaker.

The 2015-2016 lecture series will kick off on October 6 with Professor Anson's presentation on the "Augustan Transformation of Ancient Rome." Anyone interested in joining the Institute should contact Professor Moneyhon (chmoneyhon@ualr.edu).

History Day Competition

District 7 History Day involved all of the History Department members as judges. We had over 300 kids from 20 different teachers and 12 different schools compete. Due to inclement weather, we even had two separate competitions - one for papers and websites, and one for performances, documentaries, and exhibits. Thanks to all of the students, alumni, and faculty

who participated, and we hope you will all join us on the second Saturday of March next year! Next year's theme is Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History.

Phi Alpha Theta

The Iota Zeta Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta is pleased to announce our newest members, inducted at the annual banquet on Friday, April 10. Chapter President Win Lubana served as Master of Ceremonies, and the keynote address was delivered by Professor Samantha Staggs McKay, a former chapter president who now teaches History at Pulaski Technical College. Honorees included:

Brian Begley
Thomas W. Brann
Jaztone Renee Brewer
Dustin Mackenzie Brown
Laura Katherine Choate
Meagon Clark
Ashley Faye Darnell
Rhonda L. Harris
Adam H. Justice
Clinton Lewis
K. Ashley Lewis
Rachel L. Mulligan
Emily Noah
Nikki Senn
Joseph Edward Short
Stephanie Sims
Tara Ann Smith
Brenda Wilbanks

Public History Program

Our recent and expected MA graduates have accepted a number of positions. Congratulations!

Stephanie Sims (expected graduation, Dec 2015): Archivist, Clinton Foundation

Nicolette Lloyd (expected graduation, Dec 2015): Park Guide, Pathways Program, Central High Museum, National Parks Service

Nikki Senn (expected graduation, May 2015): Assistant Registrar, Historic Arkansas Museum

Emily Noah (expected graduation, May 2015): Volunteer Coordinator, Clinton Foundation

Donna Shelton (expected graduation, May 2015): Director of Communications and Public Relations, CALS College, UALR

Hattie Felton (Dec 2014): Assistant Curator, Historic Arkansas Museum

CaLee Henderson (Dec 2014): Project Archivist, CALS/ Butler Center for Arkansas History and Culture

Jim Stallings (May 2014): Project Director, PeaceJam Foundation (Colorado)

John Jones (May 2014): Project Archivist, UALR Archives

Victoria Garrett (May 2014): Researcher, Arkansas Made/ Historic Arkansas Museum

Courtney Bradford (May 2014): Historical Interpreter, Historic Arkansas Museum

Britany Simmons (May 2014): Community Outreach Coordinator, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Anne Frymark (May 2014): Museum Education Assistant, Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Adrienne McGill (Dec 2013): Archival Technician, Arkansas History Commission (Arkansas state archives)

Additional Faculty News

Edward M. Anson, Professor of History, is currently serving as the Interim Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Statistics. He has in press with Brill a new revised edition of his 2004 *Eumenes of Cardia: A Greek Among Macedonians*, which is to be published later this year. Additionally, he has published “Alexander at the Beas,” in *East and West in the World Empire of Alexander: Essays in Honour of Brian Bosworth* (Oxford University Press: 2015), and “Counter-Insurgency: The Lesson of Alexander the Great,” in *Greece, Macedon and Persia: Studies in Social, Political and Military History in Honour of Waldemar Heckel* (Oxbow Books: 2015). Anson’s last book, *Alexander’s Heirs: The Age of the Successors* Wiley-Blackwell (Oxford and Malden, MA) 2014, have received very favorable reviews recently. In *Choice*, March 2015 vol. 52 no. 07 52-3809 DF234 2014-3069 CIP, the work has been called a “reliable guide,” “an excellent history of an important period,” and “essential. Belongs in all university libraries.” The New York Review of Books (March 5, 2014), states that Anson “manages throughout to combine high scholarship with compulsive readability.” Dr. Anson continues to serve as editor of the *Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic World* series for Lexington Books (Rowman and Littlefield), associate editor of the *Ancient History Bulletin*, and as an assessor for Classics for the Australian Research Council, an agency of the Australian national government that awards grants to researchers.

John A. Kirk, Donaghey Distinguished Professor of History, wrote a couple of articles for the *Arkansas Times*, “The Long Fight For The Vote: The struggle for black voting rights and representation continues,” February 5, 2015, 1, 16-21, and “Turning back the clock on civil rights: New anti-gay law forgets history,” February 26, 2015, 12, 14, recorded another dozen Arkansas Moments for KUAR, UALR’s Public Radio station, and had his latest edited book *Race and Ethnicity in Arkansas: New Perspectives* (Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 2014) featured on KUAF, University of Arkansas Public Radio station program “Ozarks at Large.” He also gave talks at the University of Central Arkansas (with Dr. Jess Porter) for the “It Never Belonged to Anyone Else: African Americans and Women Taking Back Their Freedom” conference and at the Sichuan University (Chengdu, China) international research seminar series. Dr. Kirk was also appointed chair of the local arrangements committee for the Southern Historical Association conference that will be held in Little Rock in November 2015.

Jeff Kyong-McClain, Associate Professor of Chinese History’s most significant news is that, beginning fall 2015, he will become a tenured Associate Professor. In Spring 2015, Jeff co-led a UALR study abroad trip to China over spring break, and taught World Civ, Modern China, and Asian Thought (Donaghey Scholars) classes. On the publication front, two of his pieces appeared in print: “The Problem of Nationalist Archaeology in Chengdu” in *Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism*, and “The Palace Museum’s Evacuation to Sichuan” in *Museum History Journal*. He also translated an introduction for Beijing’s Zhonghua shuju publishers, for their reprint of the *Journal of the West China Border Research Society*.

Kristin Mann, Professor of History, has been promoted to Professor. She has participated in UALR’s Service Learning Academy this semester, in order to better incorporate community service into her new interdisciplinary Neighborhood Studies course. This course was featured at the MidSouth Conference on community engagement in Little Rock in March. She’s revising a chapter on music and dance throughout the borderlands of Latin America for Oxford Press, which she will present at an international author symposium in May. This semester’s new interdisciplinary course, History and Globalization of the Drug Trade (cross-listed with Criminal Justice and Economics) has been a popular new offering and will be revised and taught again in Spring 2017. Dr. Mann will spend this summer traveling around the state working with social studies teachers to plan pacing guides and unit plans for the newly-revised Arkansas Social Studies Frameworks.

Carl Moneyhon, Professor History, had the opportunity to work with the members of the Arkansas Repertory Theatre in their production of “The Whipping Man,” a story set in Richmond at the end of the Civil War. A lecture to a REP audience, a meeting with the cast, and commenting on a walk-through of the production offered an enlightening insight into theatre. He delivered a lecture, “Reconstruction in Arkansas: The Failed Revolution,” to a symposium on the end of the Civil War given by the Old State House Museum. He fired his first shot in a proposed general history of the Civil War in Arkansas with an article entitled “Governor Henry Rector and the Confederacy: State’s Rights Versus Military Contingencies” that appeared in the Winter edition of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

Jess Porter, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Geography, is now a “made man” as he was awarded promotion to Associate Professor and granted tenure beginning in the fall. He looks forward to a new life of extravagance and luxury. In other news, the National Endowment for the Humanities-funded exhibit he curated with Dr. Charles Romney, “Dust, Drought, and Dreams Gone Dry” continues its tour around the US. Jess has been working on new Dust Bowl research with his PhD advisor from Oklahoma State University, Dr. Carlos Cordova. They presented their research at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in Chicago in April, and are working on several related manuscripts. Jess and Dr. John Kirk presented invited lectures on patterns of race and ethnicity in Little Rock to the Pulaski County Historical Society and Arkansas Center for Research in Economics Black History Month Event in Conway, Arkansas. During the spring semester, Jess offered the following geography courses: Cultural Geography, World Regional Geography, and Geospatial Technologies. Dr. Porter also co-led the History Department’s second trip to China with Dr. Jeff Kyong-McClain. Outside the university, Jess was elected Chair of the Arkansas State Board of Registration for Professional Geologists and has exerted most of his energy wrangling his infant son

Charles Romney, Assistant Professor of History and Public History MA Graduate Coordinator: Romney published an article on the Teamsters and the National Labor Relations Board in the journal *Labor History* in February 2015. A book on the American state and the defeat of progressive unions in the 1940s will appear from Oxford University Press at the end of this year or early in 2016. The National Humanities Center accepted Romney into the Center’s interdisciplinary “Institute for Digital Textual Studies” for 2015-2016. The Institute is funded by the Mellon Foundation. As part of the Institute, Romney will travel to summer seminars at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill this summer and to the National Humanities Center in Raleigh, North Carolina, in summer 2016.

Susanah Shaw Romney, Assistant Professor. This semester, Susanah is having fun teaching a class on “Frontiers in American History,” which looks at several “cultural contact zones” in early America, from Massachusetts to Arkansas. It has been a treat to get to talk to students about De Soto, the Quapaw, and other characters from early Arkansas. This summer, she will be pursuing research on initial encounters between Europeans and Native Americans in North America and the Caribbean by looking at dictionaries and guide books in seventeenth-century Dutch and French. She’s looking forward to teaching her course in the fall on “Witchcraft and Gender in the Atlantic World,” which will meet the department's seminar requirement for seniors. Anybody looking to learn more about witchcraft trials in Germany, Salem, and Latin America is welcome to join!

Vince Vinikas, Professor of History, continues his work on the propaganda of total war, "Aim to Indoctrinate: Leading Public Opinion through World War II." His research on race relations in early twentieth century Arkansas is part of a volume under consideration by Arkansas University Press to be published in 2016. The essay is entitled, "Specters in the Past: The Saint Charles, Arkansas, Lynching of 1904 and the Limits of Historical Inquiry." Vinikas also serves as the chapter advisor of the History honorary society, Phi Alpha Theta.

I would like to contribute to the following scholarships:

	\$10-\$100	\$101-\$500	\$500-\$750	\$750-\$1000	Other
Booker Worthen Scholarship					
Craig Powell Memorial Scholarship					
David O. Demuth Scholarship					
Richard B. Dixon Scholarship					
Jack Freshour Scholarship					
Little Rock Nine Endowed Scholarship					
Mabel W. Formica and Santo D. Formica History Endowment					
Ruby M. Duke Ancient History Award					
C. Fred Williams Scholarship in Public History					
Dr. Edward Madden and Lucy Dorothy Anson III Award					

Please make checks out to UALR History Department followed by the relevant scholarship in brackets and mail to c/o Dr. John A. Kirk, History Department Chair, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2801 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-1099.