

The Chronicle

The Official Newsletter of the History Department



SUMMER 2009

PRESTIGIOUS ROME PRIZE AWARDED TO TWO HISTORY FACULTY

Two members of the History Department were recently awarded the prestigious Rome Prize for 2009-2010. Thousands of artists and scholars apply through a national competition for thirty awards. Recipients are from a variety of fields, varying from ancient to modern studies, architecture to musical composition, and have a research connection to Rome. Scholars complete a twelve-month stay conducting research, living in villas at the American Academy on the Janiculum, Rome's highest hill. This close-knit setting creates a unique opportunity for scholars and artist who might not otherwise intersect to meet and learn from each other.



The Janiculum Hill seen from the northeast. At top center, the roof of the American Academy.

Lela Urquhart, the department's new assistant professor in ancient world history, will spend the next year in Rome as a Fellow in Ancient Studies. She will be adapting her dissertation, "Colonial Religion and Indigenous Society in the Western Mediterranean: Impact, Interactions, and Integrations." As she explains, "The American Academy has one of the greatest libraries in regards to Italian archaeology and historiography, so I am hoping that access to it will expedite some of the research issues that have inevitably arisen and help facilitate the publication of my project."

Nick Wilding, Assistant Professor of History, will also spend the next academic year conducting research as a Fellow in Renaissance Studies. He will be finishing his book entitled "Galileo's Idol: Gianfrancesco Sagredo and the Republic of Knowledge" due for publication by the Chicago University Press in 2010/2011. He will also be working on finishing his translation of *Dialogue Concerning the Two Chief World Systems* and conducting research in several archives around Rome.

NEW FACULTY

Carolyn Bilotft sustains an interest in the relationship between conceptions of world order and global processes such as international political action, economic policy, and the social life of commodities. She studied Modern World History at Princeton University. Her dissertation, "Speaking the Peace: Language, World Politics and the League of Nations, 1918-1935," argues that language policy offers insights into the life cycle of a global body politic aimed at preventing international conflict after the First World War. Bilotft conducted her research primarily at the League of Nations Archives during her time as an Albert Galatin Fellow at the Graduate Institute for International Studies (HEI) in Geneva, Switzerland. She teaches courses on a variety of topics in World History and encourages her students to make connections between personal, local human experiences and the global structures in which they are embedded. Bilotft has an ongoing interest in nascent methods of writing and teaching the world's global pasts. Her publications include an article on the Esperanto Movement in *World History: Global and Local Interactions* edited by Patrick Manning.



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AWARDS AND HONORS

Each year, thanks to the generosity of others, the History Department awards students and faculty for outstanding work and contributions. Below are the most recent student and faculty awards and fellowships recipients.

Henry Thompson Malone Memorial Scholarship in History

Denise Bodor (2008-2009)

Awarded to a meritorious history major, preferably with research interests in colonial America, nineteenth century United States, Native American or Georgia history. This scholarship was created by Ms. Alice Young to honor the memory of her husband Henry T. Malone, a history professor and administrator at Georgia State.

Robert W. Sellen Scholarship

Amy Rocamora (2008-2009)

Awarded to a qualified freshman, sophomore or rising junior with a declared major in history and with an overall grade-point average of 3.0 or higher. Awarded for the first time in spring 1999, this scholarship was established to honor the late Professor Robert Sellen, who inspired a generation of students with enthusiasm for the study of history.

Carl Mauelshagen Memorial Award

Athena Smith (2008-2009)

Awarded to an outstanding graduating history major.

Phi Alpha Theta Award

Christina Chiknas (2008-2009)

Awarded to the outstanding graduating history major.

Joseph O. Baylen Fellowship in History

Edwin Bevins (2008-2009)

Michael Castellini (2009-2010)

Awarded to a master's student interested in social, cultural or economic history who shows academic promise. Joseph Baylen was Chair of the Department of History from 1966-1978 and Regents' Professor of History from 1969-1982.

Ethel Illges Woodruff Fellowship in Southern History

Michael Arndt (2009-2010)

Awarded to a master's student who shows outstanding academic promise and is dedicated to the study of Southern history. This fellowship was established by the J.W. and Ethel I. Woodruff

Foundation in memory of Ethel Illges Woodruff, a supporter of the study of Southern history.

Margaret Ewing Endowment for the Enrichment of Research in Family Oral Histories

Lisa Shannon-Flagg (2008-2009)

Elizabeth Henry (2009-2010)

Awarded to a graduate student interested in pursuing research on family histories. William Pate, who graduated from Georgia State with a B.A. in Journalism and an M.A. in Communication, established this endowment in memory of his cousin, Margaret Ewing, who had a specific interest in family history and studied the history of the Pate family.

Jenny Thurston Fellowship in Historic Preservation

Emily Eigel (2008-2009)

Christopher Mroccka (2009-2010)

Annual award and internship, with the Atlanta Urban Design Commission, for an outstanding historic preservationist in Atlanta. Jenny Thurston was the Executive Director of the Atlanta Urban Design Commission. Her family established this fellowship in her honor.

The John A. Alexander Memorial Award

Clif Stratton (2008-2009)

Awarded annually to the outstanding graduate student in history.

The John M. Matthews Distinguished Thesis and Dissertation Award

Mark Fleszar (2008-2009)

Awarded annually to a graduate student in the M.A. or Ph.D. program for an outstanding thesis or dissertation completed during the previous two-year cycle.

Southern Regional Education Board's Dissertation Year Fellowship Award

Dennise Turner (2008-2009)

Provides substantial support for minority Ph.D. students as part of a program to address the national shortage of minority faculty.

The Ellen L. Evans History Faculty Enrichment Endowment

Marni Davis (2009)

Ellen Evans was a Georgia State University history professor for over 35 years. Following her retirement, she established this fund to advance the professional development and recognition of faculty. This endowment will provide critical funds for research travel for the completion of Davis' book "Jews and Booze: Ethnicity, Commerce, and the Politics of Prohibition."

The Dale Somers Memorial Award

Timothy Crimmins, Anne H. Farrisee, and Denise Davidson (2009)

Following the tragic death of our colleague, Dale Somers, the History Department established the Dale Somers Memorial Award to honor this intellectual pioneer. The award recognizes significant contributions of scholarship by History Department faculty members. Crimmins and Farrisee were honored for their book *Democracy Restored: A History of the Georgia State Capitol* and Davidson for her book *France after Revolution: Urban Life, Gender, and the New Social Order*.

The Copen Faculty Grant Fund

Jacob Selwood (2009)

In 1999, The Copen Family established the Copen Faculty Grant Fund to support research projects. This year, Jacob Selwood was the recipient of this award, which will provide funding for his forthcoming book "Diversity and Difference in Early Modern London" (Ashgate).

Additional information on this year's awards and recipients is available on the web at www.gsu.edu/history.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

It's an exciting time for the History Department. Your generosity makes this vital work possible. Alumni and friends support every aspect of college life, making it possible for us to deal with present needs, and to plan for the future.

If you would like to know more about how you can be a part of this exciting, growing community, please contact Department Chair Hugh Hudson (404-413-6385) or visit the giving link on our home page www.gsu.edu/history.

Christine Jacobson Carter studies and writes about the nineteenth-century United States, particularly Southern families and American women. She earned her Ph.D. from Emory University

and has published two books that grew out of her work there. *The Diary of Dolly Lunt Burge, 1848-1879* was published by the University of Georgia Press in 1997. *Southern Single Blessedness: Unmarried Women in the Urban South, 1800-1865* was published by the University of Illinois Press in 2006 as part of the Women in American History series. Both are now in paperback. Carter is pleased to return to Georgia State where she taught as a visiting instructor and lecturer from 2002 to 2007. She spent the past two years teaching a variety of classes for Emory, including Civil War and Reconstruction courses, nineteenth-century research seminars, women's history, and Survey of U.S. History.

Robin Conner received her Ph.D. from Emory University in 2008. She studies nineteenth-century American history, with an emphasis on gender and the American West. Her primary research

investigates the formation and contestation of gender and class identities within post-Civil War Western military garrisons. She has received research awards from the Henry E. Huntington Library, the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies, the Coalition for Western Women's History, and the U.S. Army Military History Institute. In addition, she has also begun an exploration of fan culture and imagined pasts in twentieth-century American drive-in theaters. She is the co-author of "Starlit Screens: Preserving Place and Public at Drive-In Theaters," *Southern Spaces* (October 2008). She is currently working on an article on domestic violence in the

late-nineteenth-century Army.

Denis Gainty received his Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania's Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations in 2007.

His work investigates how social and biological bodies are envisioned and experienced in the context of modern nations and nationalisms. Rather than considering bodies as defined and limited by social forces, his work asks how bodies and embodiment are an important medium for local agency in modern nation-building through physical education, sports, martial arts, and other articulations of physical culture. As a visiting lecturer from 2007 at Georgia State, he taught undergraduate World History and East Asian History survey courses. As assistant professor of World History, he looks forward to adding upper-level and graduate courses in World History and historiography, transnational encounters, and other topics to his bag of tricks. His publications include a chapter in the forthcoming book *Bodies in Asia* as well as translations of Japanese articles and book chapters. An article on the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century institutionalization of martial arts in Japan is under review, and he is working on his first book.

Scott Matthews received his Ph.D. in American history from the University of Virginia in 2008. Last year he was a visiting assistant professor of history at Hollins

University in Roanoke, Virginia. Matthews' dissertation, "Up Against the World Like It Is: Documentary Expression in the South, 1925-1965," examines how photographers, filmmakers, sound recorders, social scientists, and nonfiction writers, used new representational strategies to

overturn old regional myths and uncover the "real" South, especially the region's rural poor and their cultures. Recently, *Southern Spaces* published a chapter from his dissertation titled, "John Cohen in Eastern Kentucky: Documentary Expression and the Image of Roscoe Holcomb During the Folk Revival." In addition to revising his dissertation, Matthews is working on an article on the documentary films produced for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the 1960s, an expanded study of the life of musician Roscoe Holcomb and his home in eastern Kentucky, and a project on the cultural expressions of loss and melancholia among black and white Southerners throughout the region's history.

Lela Urquhart received her Ph.D.

from Stanford University in 2009. She studies the history and archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean basin, with a primary concentration on Greek and Phoenician

colonization during the Archaic and Classical periods. She earned her Ph.D. from the Classics Department and the Archaeology Center at Stanford with a dissertation entitled "Colonial Religion and Indigenous Society in the Archaic Western Mediterranean: Religious Integration in Sicily and Sardinia between 750 and 400 BCE." This project involved a comparative analysis of indigenous responses to Greek and Phoenician religion and related patterns of religious change to broader processes of state formation in the colonial world of the west Mediterranean. She has excavated in North Carolina, Crete, Israel, and Italy and was an Assistant Director for the Monte Polizzo Archaeological Project in Sicily in 2007 and 2008. In the fall of 2009, she will travel to Rome, Italy, as a Rome Prize Fellow at the American Academy in Rome. Upon her return, she will be joining the Georgia State History Department as an assistant professor.

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FROM YOU.**

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RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Eighteenth-Century Gujarat: The Dynamics of Its Political Economy, 1750-1800 | Ghulam A. Nadri

The eighteenth century in South Asian history is a period of great dynamism and a critical phase in the historical trajectory of the subcontinent. This book focuses on the merchants and manufacturers of Gujarat, who amidst complex political developments succeeded in preserving their autonomy and freedom in the market place. By spotting economic growth in the late eighteenth century, this study rejects the constructed dualism between a seventeenth century of great progress and an eighteenth century of chaos and decline.