The Newsletter of the Department of History at the University of Colorado at Boulder

October 2005

The History behind a Name and Place: The Mary Rippon Theater

E very year, hundreds of graduating students, their families, friends, staff, and faculty gather together in early May for the Department of History commencement ceremony. For as long as anyone can remember, the ceremony has been held in the Mary Rippon Theater on the south side of the Hellems Arts and Sciences building. Certainly, some folks in the crowd relish other times spent in the beautiful sandstone amphitheater. Perhaps the graduating student is reminded of sprawling there and reading under the sun on a warm October afternoon; maybe a parent recalls their own graduation decades earlier; someone else reflects on coming there to see a Colorado Shakespeare Festival production, or one of the countless rock and roll shows held in the theater over the years. A handful may actually think of Mary Rippon, the extraordinary woman for whom the space is named.

University Archivist David Hays believes that Rippon, the third faculty mem-

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Colorado History . . . Year?

I t has been quite a year for the Colorado History Day (CHD) Program. CHD continued to grow. Over 850 students from ten regions around the state participated on April 23, 2005, on the University of Colorado campus. Each entry related to the 2005 theme, “Communication in History: The Key to Understanding.” Whether they chose an exhibit, a documentary, a performance, or a paper, these students created wonderful, sophisticated History Day projects.

The reactions of this year’s students explain why CHD has become such a fond experience for everyone who participates. Students enjoyed “coming to CU,” “meeting with the judges,” and having an opportunity to do something they “would otherwise not have [done].” They clearly appreciated the chance to gain “more knowledge [about] events that shaped our nation and…founded the basis of the way the world functions today.”

Perhaps one of the most important ways people in the community support CHD is by volunteering their time as judges for the state and regional contests. Over 150 people volunteered to judge at the 2005 competition. Volunteers experienced firsthand the excitement for learning and history that permeate the campus on Colorado History Day. Without volunteers, there would be no CHD competition. Thanks to all our volunteers.

Again this year, CHD sent a considerable delegation of middle and high school students to the University of Maryland at College Park to represent Colorado at the National History Day competition. Three Colorado students were named national winners at the 25th annual National History Day competition. Denver’s Ryan Brown received a silver medal for her documentary project, “Servant to Civil Rights: Bayard Rustin,” while Norah Kissell and Brigitte Siller earned a silver medal for their museum-style exhibit “Communication through the Lens: The Photography of Lewis Hine, for the Children.” All three students attend the

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Although cliché, it certainly is appropriate to say that time really does fly; it is difficult to believe that a whole year has passed since my first Newsletter column! On the personal level, there is little doubt in my mind that the reason time seems to move so quickly is because of the aging process. But also the year sped by (at least in retrospect) because just about every week during the 2004–05 school year something of significance was happening in the history department to keep me, our faculty, and our beloved staff on our collective toes.

Very important for our program and departmental community was that during this past year we succeeded in adding three new tenure-track faculty members to our ranks: Anne Lester, a medievalist who recently earned her PhD at Princeton; Sanjay Gautam, a South Asianist who just completed his PhD at the University of Chicago; and John Willis, a Middle East historian who is finishing up his doctoral work at New York University. We also hired Richard Reitan for a one-year instructorship (2005–06). He is a specialist in Japanese and East Asian history. Also adding to our faculty strength this year is the return to the department of Susan Kent, a modern British historian. Susan has spent the last several years serving as CU-Boulder’s associate vice chancellor for faculty affairs.

We were also busy this past year with the tenure and promotion cases of several of our colleagues. Virginia Anderson, one of our Early Americanists, was successfully promoted to full professor. Susan Jones, our historian of science, received tenure and was promoted to associate professor. And Jim Denton, an Americanist, was promoted to senior instructor.

Just as important, perhaps even more so for the vitality of our undergraduate program’s everyday workings, is that we were blessed in the spring with a new undergraduate advisor position. For a few years now we have relied for undergraduate counsel solely on the very capable, but terribly overworked, Patrick Tally. We recently completed our search for our new advisor and hired Jeanne Ullmer. Jeanne, who joins us this fall, did her graduate work at Oregon State University and comes to us with a family background that includes several generations of college professors. That Jeanne knows the ropes of university life is a good thing; our undergraduate program is attracting as many students as ever. Even though we graduated some 150 students last year, for example, the number of our majors still hovers around 700!

Many of our continuing majors still participate in Phi Alpha Theta (PAT), the national history honor society. They and others, through the History Club, sponsored this past year several informative panels of speakers, including, just before the general election, one composed of university professors who discussed the 2004 campaign season. Our undergraduates also continued this past year to work on their journal, The Colorado Historian. The graduate program is as large as ever, ending the 2005 year with more than 80 students. A number of them work as teaching assistants or as graduate part-time instructors. Among the exciting extracurricular activities of our graduate students is their organization of the Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference. The September 2005 program sponsored 16 sessions with 46 graduate participants who came from universities as far away as Massachusetts and Oregon!

Also in the positive column for the past year has been the continued strength of Colorado History Day (CHD) and the San Luis Valley programs. You can read more about both of these in the Newsletter. But here I would like to call attention to the fact that this past year we succeeded in hiring Beth Kovacs in a part-time position to administer CHD. Beth knows the department well, having received her MA with us just a few years ago. She replaces Wendy Rex-Atzet who, during her time as CHD coordinator, took it to new heights of success.

Regrettably, not all news this past year was good. This past winter, our dear friend Jeff Limerick, husband of colleague Patty Limerick, unexpectedly passed away. A memorial to him appears in this Newsletter. This past August we also learned the sad news that one of our 2004 graduates, James Cathey, a lieutenant in the Marines, was killed in Iraq. He left behind a wife who is expecting a child next January.

As far as personnel go, two of our friends and colleagues, Susan Jones and Chidibere Nwaubani, the latter our Africanist, accepted positions at other institutions. Thankfully, though, they have only taken leaves of absence from here for a year as they carefully consider their options.

To end this column on a positive note, I would like to say that this past year our beloved History Advisory Board (HAB) continued its important work. Now in its fifth year, HAB provides us with generous support for our World Area Speakers Series, The Colorado Historian, faculty research, the Colorado History Day program, the
Dear Friends of the CU Department of History,

As the 2005–06 academic year gets underway, the History Advisory Board (HAB) looks ahead to continuing its support of the work of the dedicated and talented faculty and students of the history department as they build on past successes while striving to meet the challenges of the coming year. On behalf of the HAB, special thanks to Peter Boag for his efforts over the past year in being available to and communicating with the board even as he faced the many other demands associated with assuming his new position as chair of the department. He helped us greatly in providing input on how we might better engage with all constituencies within the department, and we look forward enthusiastically to continuing to work with him.

With some board members departing after completing terms of service, and others stepping down during the year because of the demands of outside commitments, the HAB is experiencing some transition of its own as the year kicks off. Many thanks to all those who finished their terms or are moving on, including Ken Kahn, Sandy Bracken, Chris Anshutz, Bob Korver, and Terry Frei. Their thoughtful insights and support of the work of the board are greatly appreciated. Replacing such a number all at once is difficult, but we are fortunate that a very distinguished group of uniquely qualified individuals has agreed to join the board. We are pleased to welcome as new members Jane Norton, currently focusing on completing their first and second books appeared 15 years apart, Fred will publish two books in 2005. The first, which he wrote together with Andrew Cayton (a Distinguished Professor at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio), is a general interpretation of American history titled The Dominion of War: Empire and Liberty in North America, 1500–2000. Viking published it in January; in December the same press will release The War that Made America: A Short History of the French and Indian War. The latter is a companion volume to a four-hour Public Broadcasting Service documentary film of the same title that will be broadcast in early 2005. Fred has been advising WQED Pittsburgh on the making of that film since the project began in the fall of 2000.

Virginia DeJohn Anderson, U.S. Colonial and Social Virginia’s most recent book, Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America, was published by Oxford University Press in November 2004. She was promoted to the rank of full professor in 2005, and is beginning a new book on Loyalism and the American Revolution. She also serves this year as the director of graduate studies.

Peter Boag, Sexuality, Environment, American West Peter’s two monographs are Same-Sex Affairs: Constructing and Controlling Homosexuality in the Pacific Northwest (2003) and Environment and Experience, Settlement Culture in Nineteenth-Century Oregon (1992). His article, “Go West Young Man, Go East Young Woman: Searching for the ‘Trans’ in the Gender History of the American West,” appears this fall in the Western Historical Quarterly. In addition to chairing the department, he is a senior scholar in CU-Boulder’s Women’s History Program and serves on the editorial board of various historical journals. He is currently at work on a gay and lesbian history of the 20th-century West.

Scott Bruce, Early Medieval Europe Scott’s research interests include monasticism, hagiography, and Western perceptions of Islam in the early Middle Ages. His first book, Silence and Sign Language in Western Medieval Monasticism: The Clunian Tradition (c. 900–1200), is forthcoming with Cambridge University Press. He is currently working on a new book project titled Monks Tell Tales: Cluny and the Muslims of La Garde-Freinet (972–1156).

Carol Byerly, U.S. Political, History of Medicine Carol teaches U.S. history courses. Her dissertation was published as Fever of War: The Influenza Epidemic in the U.S. Army during World War I by New York University Press in the spring of 2005. As an historian for the History Division of the Office of the U.S. Political, History of Medicine

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From the Advisory Board 3

awarded to PhD graduate student Jason Hanson, the Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference (RMIHC), the undergraduate journal (The Colorado Historian), the World Area Speakers Conference, faculty research support, and another very successful Colorado History Day (CHD). Many HAB members also participated as judges for CHD.

With the growth of Colorado History Day to where some 600 students from all over Colorado participated this past spring, it became apparent that CHD needed to transition from a Department of History based activity to one with a full-time state coordinator backed by a Colorado History Day Executive Council, with representatives from a number of public and private agencies and academic institutions. The HAB is represented on the council, and I am hopeful that the HAB will continue to lend both financial and participatory support to CHD for many years into the future. Thanks to history graduate student Wendy Rex-Atzet for her outstanding work as state coordinator for CHD again this past year, ably assisted by fellow graduate student Emily Allen-Shaw. Both are now focusing on completing their academic programs in the department. Replacing Wendy is the new full-time state coordinator, Beth Kovacs. We look forward to working with her in the HAB’s continuing involvement with CHD.

As the work of the HAB moves forward, I hope we can continue to expand our horizons by identifying additional opportunities to support the mission of the Department of History in areas of community outreach, department infrastructure development; undergraduate and graduate student scholarship, fellowship, and career opportunity development; collaborative undertakings with faculty members in promoting programs to share their expertise with the broader CU community, and fundraising in support of the ongoing needs of the department. With an outstanding faculty carefully selected from the best universities within and outside the United States, more than 80 history graduate students, and some 700 undergraduate history majors, the demands on the department are large and growing if it is to maintain its stature among peer institutions.

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Faculty

Ellen Aiken, History of Colorado Ellen specializes in the American West. Her doctoral dissertation focused on race, cultural identity, and working-class formation in the Union Pacific Coal towns of southern Wyoming. In addition to teaching the History of Colorado course in the history department, Ellen is a full-time instructor in the Sewall Academic Program, where she teaches courses on the American West and Gender and Culture.

Fred Anderson, Colonial/Revolutionary U.S. Oddly enough for a man whose first and second books appeared 15 years apart, Fred will publish two books in 2005. The first, which he wrote together with Andrew Cayton (a Distinguished Professor at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio), is a general interpretation of American history titled The Dominion of War: Empire and Liberty in North America, 1500–2000. Viking published it in January; in December the same press will release The War that Made America: A Short History of the French and Indian War. The latter is a companion volume to a four-hour Public Broadcasting Service documentary film of the same title that will be broadcast in early 2005. Fred has been advising WQED Pittsburgh on the making of that film since the project began in the fall of 2000.

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Lee Chambers, U.S. Social, Women
Lee's interest in Cold War Los Alamos culture has taken her to Australia, Ireland, and Spain, where she presented at international conferences on gender, war, and identity. Her continuing research in this area focuses on Japanese views of U.S. Cold War nuclear policy, as well as interviews with Los Alamos weapons scientists. Lee is also interested in the discursive construction of political womanliness in antebellum America and has a manuscript in progress on this subject. She has presented several papers on different aspects of this topic over the past few years. She is starting a term on the board of CU’s Center for Humanities and the Arts and is looking forward to helping to shape the center’s programs in which several of our faculty and graduate students have participated. She also serves on the Executive Committee of the Graduate School and is beginning a two-year commitment to the Women’s Studies department.

Lucy Chester, British Empire, Modern South Asia, International Affairs
Lucy Chester spent 2004–05 conducting research in Britain and the Middle East, for a book project comparing the British withdrawal from South Asia and the Palestine Mandate.

Jeanne Christensen, British Empire
Jeanne teaches courses in British History and Western Civilization.

Brian DeLay, Americas, Borderlands
Brian teaches classes on Native American history, the American Southwest, and Borderlands. During the academic year 2005–06 he will be on leave completing his manuscript for Yale University Press, The War of a Thousand Deserts: Indian Politics in the Era of the U.S.-Mexican War.

James Denton, U.S. Intellectual and Cultural
Jim received a promotion to senior instructor effective beginning the 2005–06 academic year. Jim’s latest research examines tramps and labor in the late-19th century American West. He has an article, “Ministers and the Ministry,” scheduled to be published in fall 2005 by M. E. Sharpe in a four-volume encyclopedia titled, Colonial America: An Encyclopedia of Social, Cultural, and Economic History.

Barbara Engel, Soviet Union and Russia
Barbara spent the 2004–05 academic year on leave from the Guggenheim Foundation, working on her current project, Marriage, Its Discontents and the State in Late Imperial Russia. She spent March 2005 in Bellagio, Italy, at the Rockefeller Foundation Study Center. Her article, “In the Name of the Tsar: Competing Legalities and Marital Conflict in Late Imperial Russia,” appeared in the March 2005 issue of the Journal of Modern History. Her chapter, “Women, the Family and Public Life,” is forthcoming in the second volume of the Cambridge History of Russia and her chapter, “Women and the State,” is forthcoming in the third volume of the same series. This April, she presented a paper titled “Earning their Own Crust of Bread,” at an international conference devoted to Russian Labor History, held in Amsterdam. It will be published in a volume of selected papers from that conference. In the spring....

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Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference, and a fellowship for a graduate student. Edward C. Coffey, Chair of HAB, and husband of the late Joan L. Coffey (PhD, CU-Boulder, History, ’90) continues to offer the Joan L. Coffey Fellowship for a non-traditional graduate student in the field of European history. As if that is not enough, he also generously underwrites the production of this Newsletter. With HAB help, we have some new projects in mind this year. For example, we hope to launch an overhauled, up-to-date, and snazzier history department web site. In the meantime, the old web site continues to provide information on department events, programs, students, and faculty.

As you can see, HAB and its members sustain many of our programs. And it relies in part on your generous contributions. If you approve of the work of the CU-Boulder Department of History and of HAB, we strongly encourage you to make a donation. On the last page of the Newsletter, you will find a form that asks you to send in a contribution to support our terrific projects. Please indicate on the form, by marking the appropriate box, that you wish your donation to go to HAB. Only with your support will I be able to write to you again next year about the changing news of the department. Best wishes to you all for a good, safe, and productive year.
Congratulations to Our 2004–05 Graduates!

Bachelor of Arts
Michael Allen
William Ardesson
Parker Austin
Kathy Aylward
Diana Bardsley
Daniel Bell, with distinction
Kenneth Bell
Robert Bennett
Robert Bennhoff
Mark Benson
Carl Blazek
Aaron Bock
Matthew Booren
Justin Bradley
Peter Brady
Nicholas Brandt
Amy Bright
Matthew Brinck
Holly Brockett
Blair Brown
Andrew Bruce
Joshua Burnley
Steven Butler
Blue Carlson
Courtney Carroll
Keith Carson
Stacey Carter, with distinction
Wyatt Chadwick
Jonathan Chakeres
Andrew Chatfield, cum laude
Richard Chenoweth
Patrick Chippetta
Andrew Chriscaden
Dean Clift
Melissa Collins
Alexander Cragg
Kyle Davies
David DeFord, with distinction
Daniel Dewispelare, with distinction
Bradford Dobos
Sarah Dobson
Andrea Donnelly
Jennifer Dunemn
Megan Durland
Stephen Dutelle
Eric Ericksen
Doug Espinosa
Josh Fiester
John Fleming
Katherine Friend
Jessica Funderburg
Zachary Gelman, with distinction
John Gerber
Stuart Goldberg
Carolyn Golowka
David Goodhart
Kelly Groves
Gregory Guertin
Alan Haburchak, magna cum laude
Dorothy Haring
Joseph Harper
Cassandra Hearn
Jennifer Heinrichs
Mary Hendrickson
Jeff Herrick
Daniel Hey
Benjamin Hirsch-McShane
Ross Hoffman
John Holcomb
Brandon Holmes
Justin Igo
Megan Elizabeth Ihle
Kartal Jaquette
Jeremy Jimenez
Brian Jones
Kristen Jones
Jennifer Judson
Elias Jump
Brandon Keel
Christopher Kerns
Shannon King
Alexander Kiremidjian
Joshua Kirsh
Rebecca Kofski
Joseph Krahm
Allison Krouse
David Wiley Kusic
Eric Larson
Mark Larson
Derek Lecy
Darcy Leonard
Joseph Lev
David Lewis
Kelly Lewis, with distinction
Karen Lloyd, with distinction
Jena Long
Jeremy Lynch
Rayn Magrum
Joshua Maloff
Andrew Maurer
Mark McCullough
Lauren McGothlin
Kathryn McGuire
Jordan McKnight, magna cum laude
Timothy McKnight
Thomas McMahon
Mary McPherson
Stephen McWhirter
Tiffany Metcalf
Jacqueline Mironescu
Derek Mitchell
David Montoya
Jonathan Mueller
Tita Myers
Amina Nawaz, magna cum laude
Jaime Nebergall
Crandall Newell
Nicholas Newlin
Andrew Norris
Charles Norris
Emily O’Hara
Ryan Olsen
Lance Panigutti
John Pennington
Andrew Petit, magna cum laude
Matthew Pomeroy
Sarah Prewitt
Sarah Priborsky
John Price
Flavian Prince
Joseph Puga
Brendan Quinn
Wendy Ramos
Megan Reece, magna cum laude
Abraham Rosenberg
Matthew Roth
Meghan Roznovak
Katherine Ruminiki
Aaron Russell
Matthew Sauer, with distinction
Blake Saunders
Donald Sawyer
Paul Schomber
Jason Schultz
Samuel Schumer
Joshua Shepherd
Linda Shisler
Bradley Smith
Bryan Smith
Colby Smith
Kirstin Spencer
Graydon Stevens
Robert Strange
Mark Strelitz
Brandon Tabata
Margaret Thayer
Nicholas Tiberio
Stephanie Vaughn
David Vincent
Kenton Wall
Jasmine Walters
Sarah Warsh
Russell Webster
Adam Wellington
Michael Welty
Harper Logan West
Erin Westmoreland
Sarah White
Robert Wickham
Philip Wilkins
Lauren Wilner
Trevor Wilmot
Ralph Woods
Russell Zigler, with distinction
she chaired the search for a new editor of Slavic Review, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. In July, she served on a selection panel for the National Endowment for the Humanities. She also serves as an editor of the Encyclopedia of Global Women’s History, now in preparation.

**Robert Ferry, Latin America**
Bob’s research interests include the social and economic history of late-16th and early-17th century colonial Mexico, and the microhistory of crypto-Jewish communities during the Inquisition. He teaches courses in general Latin American history, the history of Spain, and the history of Mexico to 1821.

**Merle Funk, American Culture**
Merle teaches courses in American thought and popular culture.

**Sanjay Gautam, India, Islam, South Asia**
Sanjay teaches courses on India and South Asia.

**Matthew Gerber, Early Modern France**
Matthew teaches courses in Early Modern France and Europe.

**Julie Greene, U.S. Labor, Immigration, Politics**
Julie is currently writing a book titled For Empire They Toil: The Construction of the Panama Canal, 1903–1915, which will be published by Penguin Press. Last year she received a Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which allowed her to take a leave from teaching during the 2004–05 academic year and focus full-time on writing the book. Her essay, “The Labor of Empire: Recent Scholarship on U.S. History and Imperialism,” appeared in the spring 2004 issue of Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas. In the fall of 2004 International Labor and Working-Class History published her article “Spaniards on the Silver Roll: Labor Troubles and Liminality in the Panama Canal Zone, 1904 to 1914.” Julie also serves as reviews editor of the journal Labor: Studies in Working-Class History of the Americas and on the Board of Directors of the Labor and Working-Class History Association. She has spoken to a wide variety of audiences on the history of the Panama Canal, including students and faculty at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and passengers aboard the Crystal Harmony’s cruise through the canal.

**David Gross, Modern European Intellectual**
David’s recent research has focused on the role of remembering and forgetting in modern Western societies. His new project, just now in its earliest stages, concerns the religious critique of modernity in post-Enlightenment Europe. He has also completed an article (to be published later this year) titled “Combating Modernity: On the Role of Tradition in the Present Age.”

**Diana Shull (PhD)** received the Emerson Humanities Dissertation Fellowship from the College of Arts and Sciences for 2005–06. She has an article, co-authored with C. John Clements, MD, and Paul Greenough, titled “Eradicating Polio from Nigeria: An Ethical Dilemma in the Making,” forthcoming in Current Drug Safety.


**Shir Kasper (PhD)** is polishing her dissertation prospectus and has also contracted to write the centennial history of Rockhurst University, a Jesuit college in Kansas City. PBS interviewed her for an American Experience documentary on Annie Oakley, based on her 1992 biography of Oakley published by the University of Oklahoma Press.

**PhD student John Stephen Edwards’s** chapter titled “The ‘Carmina’ of Publilius Optatianus Porphyrius and the Creative Process” was published in Studies in Latin Literature and Roman History in early 2005. He received an Ogilvy Research Fellowship from the Center for British and Irish Studies and the Patricia C. Peterson Award from the Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant Program. Stephen used the grants to travel to the UK to finish archival research for his dissertation. He also organized a panel for NACBS, titled “Material Culture and the Construction of Identity, 1550–1800.” Stephen’s own paper for that panel examines a portrait in the collection of the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge University and suggests an identity for the previously unidentified sitter. The directors of the Fitzwilliam accepted his identification and the painting has since been re-labeled and re-captioned. A shorter version of the paper will be published in the magazine History Today under the title “The Lady Has a New Face.”

**Brandon Williams (PhD)** spent the summer mainly in Boulder reading and traveling. He traveled home to Chicago for most of May. While there, Brandon “learned how to box a Kangaroo and the proper way to snorkel.” Both were valuable lessons that he hopes to employ in the future.

**Sarah Forzetting (MA)** was a Provost’s Fellow at CU-Boulder’s Norlin Library in collection development.

**Mark Anderson (PhD)** presented a paper at the American Society of Environmental Historians’ annual conference titled “Gender Unbound: Women and Men Hunting in the Colorado Rockies, 1865–1915.” He is currently organizing a panel for the 2006 Western History Association’s conference in St. Louis.

**Duke Richey (PhD)** is the recipient this year of the department’s Distinguished Dissertation Fellowship. While preparing his project for its defense, Duke is working part-time as an adjunct instructor at Metropolitan State College of Denver, where he teaches a class on Native American history.

**Eric J. Morgan (PhD)** presented a paper on Arthur Ashe and South Africa at the Annual Conference of the North American Society for Sport History in Green Bay, Wisconsin in May. He also authored three chapters for the latest SAT II U.S. History for Dummies study guide, as well as several entries in the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Counterculture. His article on Polaroid and South Africa will appear next year in Enterprise and Society: The International Journal of Business History. Eric also presented an invited lecture on relations between the United States and Cuba at the United Methodist Women’s Forum last February. He continues to teach U.S. history survey courses at Front Range Community College in Longmont and Metropolitan State College of Denver while preparing for comprehensive exams and dissertation research.

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Building on last year's conference and surging forward into 2005, the Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference (RMIHC) continued to showcase graduate student research, while providing a hospitable forum for graduate students to engage with one another on a variety of disciplines. The students at CU are privileged to have a conference that allows for the inclusion of a wide array of subject matter and the participation of students from university communities around the country. This year, we were proud to host 46 presenters from 25 institutions and a variety of disciplines for the annual conference. During the weekend of September 16–17, the 16 conference panels comprised topics ranging from gender formation in the West to facets of the Soviet state. As one of the Department of History’s outreach programs, RMIHC 2005 created an exciting and unique experience for future professional historians.

In addition to the original research presented in the panels, this year’s conference offered two workshops designed to address issues of professional development—book publishing and writing grant proposals. Representatives from the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group led the book publishing workshop, which covered topics such as readying a manuscript for publication, contracts, and the acquisitions process. The second workshop addressed another key aspect of a graduate student’s career, providing tips for the best ways to create successful grant proposals.

RMIHC 2005 would not have been possible without the commitment and support of local businesses, the History Advisory Board, and the CU history department. RMIHC received several generous donations from Boulder businesses. The History Advisory Board continued to provide financial support, and beginning this year, several HAB members kindly agreed to open their homes to conference participants. The conference co-chairs, Katie Cumpsten, Kara Voss, and Colin Church, and the Department of History graduate students are especially grateful to Peter Boag, department chair, and Virginia Anderson, director of graduate studies, for their help in making RMIHC 2005 such a success.

To view the conference program and abstracts, visit the conference web site at www.colorado.edu/Conference/RMIHC.

—by the RMIHC co-chairs

Congratulations to Our 2004–05 Graduates!

Fall 2004
Tracy Brady, PhD, “Religion and the Making of Place in the Upper Rio Grande Valley, 1300–1900”
Julia Hobson Haggerty, PhD, “A Ranchland Genealogy: Land, Livestock, and Community in the Upper Yellowstone Valley, 1866–2004”

Spring 2005
Leigh Campbell Hale, MA
John Eric Klein, MA
Robert Todd Laugen, PhD, “The Promise and Defeat of the Progressive Public: Reform Politics in Colorado, 1902–1929”
Zachary Colin Smith, MA
Daniel Mark Stephen, “‘Yoking West Africa to the Chariot of Progress’: Ghana, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone at the British Empire Exhibition, 1924–1925”

Summer 2005
Mark A. Baxter, PhD, “The Socio-Psychological Response to the German Hyperinflation of 1922–23”
Cathleen Conway, MA
Helen Giron-Mushfiq, MA
Bryan William Miller, MA, “Embers in the Chalk: French Soldiers’ Motivations in Defeat, September–October 1915”
John Hatch, Russia, Eastern Europe

John teaches courses for the department in Russian and East-Central European history.

Ruth Helm, Early America, Cultural

Ruth is associate director of the Sewell Residential Academic Program. She teaches courses in United States History before 1865 as well as a course on the American Revolution.

Robert Hohlfelder, Ancient Maritime

Bob has just completed his third season of fieldwork as senior marine archeologist for the Greek-Canadian Persian War Shipwreck Survey and will conduct his fourth season of fieldwork as co-director of the Roman Concrete Study at Caesarea (Israel) in October. Since January 2006, he has presented seven papers at national and international conferences and published four articles. He is on sabbatical for the year and will serve as tour expert for three National Geographical Society tours in the Mediterranean this fall. He will be a visiting scholar at the American Academy in Rome and Wolfson College, University of Oxford, in spring 2006.

Nicole Jobin, Medieval Italy, Mediterranean

Nicole’s research interests include the social and economic history of high- to late-medieval Italy, with a particular emphasis on urban development, the environment, and women’s history. She teaches courses in medieval and early modern history as well as a history of Modern Italy which is cross-listed with the Department of French and Italian.

Amin Kazak, Middle East and Islamic World


Padraic Kenney, Eastern and Central Europe

With Max Paul Friedman, a former Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellow in the department, Padraic published a collection titled, Partisan Histories: The Past in Contemporary Global Politics. The book, intended for students of comparative politics, includes chapters on the role of history debates in high politics in countries around the world today. He is also completing work on a collection of interviews with former anti-communist opposition figures, to be published in Polish this fall. Finally, Padraic begins a new research project on the political prisoner in the 20th-century world.

Susan Kent, Modern Britain

Susan is the author of numerous articles and books and is currently researching the politics of loss in interwar Britain and the impact of collective trauma on identity and politics. She is also co-authoring a book on the Igbo Women’s War of 1929 in Southern Nigeria with Marc Materia (MA ’02).

Ellen Lawson, African-American

Ellen teaches courses in African-American history for the department. She has previously taught at the University of Seattle, Cleveland State University, and Oberlin College, among others. In addition to her career in history, she is also an artist and uses these skills to fix up historical houses throughout the United States.
CHD is Proud to Announce Colorado’s National Winners

Fifty-four middle and high school students from across Colorado competed in the National History Day competition held June 11-15, 2005, at the University of Maryland at College Park. Two Colorado entries were named national winners—both taking home silver medal honors. Of the 27 entries that represented Colorado, three advanced to finals.

San Luis Valley Project: A Testimony to Outreach

This year marked the 11th anniversary of the department’s outreach program to middle school and high school students in the San Luis Valley. Initiated in 1994 by Professor Jim Jankowski, and funded in part by the university and by alumni contributions, the program has two immediate goals. First, it hopes to inspire students in rural towns such as Alamosa and La Jara to study history, complete a project, and to compete in, or at least observe, the Colorado History Day competition, which traditionally draws most of its competitors from the Front Range and Denver metropolitan area school districts. Second, by helping financially to bring the students to the Boulder campus for the annual state championship competition, the project hopes to inspire them to consider attending college, and specifically, the state’s flagship campus.

Former program directors Professor Susan Jones and Professor Marcia Yonemoto, and current director Professor Lucy Chester have received a number of testimonials to the power of the program for both exciting students about historical scholarship and providing them with an eye-opening experience about the possibilities of higher education. One teacher, by example, told Jones, “This program is a tremendous experience for them. They get to see a college campus, then they are not so afraid of it. Most of these kids have never ordered in a restaurant; they have never stayed in a hotel room. You can’t imagine how wonderful this is for them.” In 2005, five schools brought nearly 70 students to Boulder for the weekend, where they stayed at a hotel near campus, met with admission officers, took tours of the university, ate out, viewed a laser show at Fiske Planetarium, and competed at or observed History Day.

A teacher from Moffat, Colorado, where students developed projects this year ranging from “Danish Persistence in World War Two” to a study of the “Hollywood Vision of Vietnam,” wrote that her students’ trip to Boulder and History Day “is the most empowering academic experience our school provides. . . . [Through your support] they attain a broader picture of the world of learning and their place in it.” A University of Colorado alumnus and teacher from Alamosa wrote, “Two of the students I accompanied on the campus tour speak little English, and I feel certain this was their first encounter with a college or university. By the end of the tour they were both convinced that they ‘wanted to come here.’ Thank you for helping bring SLV students to CU.”

For more information about the San Luis Valley Outreach program, contact Professor Chester at chester@colorado.edu or the Colorado History Day office at chd@colorado.edu. Contributions may be assigned to the program on the donation form in this newsletter.

Ryan Brown—Silver Medalist in Senior Individual Documentary
Project Title: Servant to Civil Rights: Bayard Rustin
School: Denver School of the Arts, Denver
Teacher: Ed Glassman

Brigitte Siller and Norah Kissell—Silver Medalist in Senior Group Performance
Project Title: Communication Through the Lens: The Photography of Lewis W. Hine, for the Children
School: George Washington High School, Denver
Teacher: Bonnie Guggenheim

Alex Grossman—National Finalist in Senior Individual Exhibit
Project Title: The Chautauqua Movement: Communicating the American Ideal
School: Fairview High School, Boulder
Teacher: Leigh Campbell-Hall

John Stanford—National Finalist in Senior Paper and Best in the State, Senior Entry
Project Title: “You’ve Got to be Carefully Taught:” Social Issues Communicated in the American Musicals of Oscar Hammerstein II
School: George Washington High School, Denver
Teacher: Bonnie Guggenheim

Chloe Armao, Nyasha James-Davis, Aura Cruz, Jaqueline A. Merez, and Eboni Coleman—Best in the State, Junior Entry
Project Title: Communication on the Road to Freedom: The Journey of the Underground Railroad
School: Denver School of the Arts, Denver
Teacher: Barbara Allen
Zeiler Returns from Fulbright Year in Japan

ONE YEAR AGO, as the Boston Red Sox won their first world championship since 1918, Professor Tom Zeiler watched from Japan. As a Fulbright scholar teaching at the University of Tokyo and at Japan Women’s University, Boston’s dramatic eight game winning streak to victory provided Zeiler and his baseball-loving students something to talk about outside of class. Then again, baseball was also the subject of their discussions in the classroom. Zeiler spent the year in Japan, in part, to teach his well-known and much-loved CU-Boulder class, America through Baseball.

Although he taught three other classes while in Japan, Zeiler’s experience as an expert on the intersections between diplomatic history, globalization, and baseball drew considerable attention in a nation obsessed with the sport. In addition to his duties in the classroom, Zeiler gave lectures throughout the country at conferences and as a keynote speaker. On two occasions, for example, at the United States Consulate in Fukuoka, Zeiler spoke to a packed house of Kurume University students, government officials, and the press. In one talk, he looked at how the diplomatic relationship between the United States and Japan has been shaped by games of goodwill between the countries for more than 100 years. Zeiler noted, for example, that when the Department of State brought Joe Dimaggio to Fukuoka in the 1950s, the New York Yankees star’s presence served the U.S. government as an important moment in “baseball diplomacy.” In a similar talk at Sapporo, where the crowd included players and coaches from the wonderfully named team, the Nippon Ham Fighters, Zeiler gave what one embassy official described as a “home run presentation about the role baseball and sports exchanges have played in cementing strong ties between the U.S. and Japan.” The presentation, it should be noted, included Zeiler leading members of the crowd in singing a rousing rendition of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame.”

On several occasions while in Japan, Zeiler viewed U.S.–Japan baseball diplomacy up close and personally. He developed a relationship with Major League baseball’s director of Japanese operations, a friendship which helped Zeiler and his family secure front row seats at a game in Tokyo between MLB stars and stars from the Nippon Professional Baseball League (the major league in Japan). On another occasion, to the delight of Zeiler’s students, the former New York Mets manager, Bobby Valentine, who now manages the Chiba Lotte Marines of the Japanese Pacific League, visited Zeiler’s class as a special guest.

While in Tokyo, Zeiler, who published Unconditional Defeat: Japan, America, and the End of World War II in 2003, worked on a forthcoming study that looks at an American world baseball tour in 1888–89.

The year in Japan was Zeiler’s second Fulbright award. In 1999 he taught at the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella in Buenos Aires, Argentina. ☺
ber hired at the University of Colorado, and perhaps the first woman to teach at any state university in the nation, may very well have taught the first history class on the Boulder campus. Although Rippon was hired to teach German and French, she and Justin E. Dow, professor of Latin and Greek, likely also taught the required “history” course (the study of Greek and Roman history or even European history) listed in the 1877–78 catalog because, as Hays says, the “two other faculty were in the sciences.” Indeed, when Dr. Joseph Sewall, the university’s first president, offered Rippon a job in 1877, he explained to her that she may have to teach classes other than the languages she had mastered after living for five years in Europe. “I will add,” Sewall wrote, “that for the first term you might be asked to teach some other branches but nothing to which you could object, I am sure.” Classically trained, well read, and extremely well-traveled, Rippon would have felt comfortable teaching any number of courses. She may have taught history classes for 14 years, perhaps until 1892 (well after Rippon began her career in Boulder), when the university first hired a professor of “history and political economy.” Another nine years passed before the creation of the Department of History in 1901–02. Rippon, who never received any college degree, retired from the university in 1909 after 31 years of service. For the next 26 years, she remained in Boulder, living what appeared on the surface to be a quiet and simple life.

But Rippon’s life was far from simple. In 1888, after a secret affair with a male student 12 years her junior, she pleaded with the Regents to grant her a sabbatical so that she might go to Europe to “improve her health.” Rippon was pregnant. After marrying the student, Will Housel, at a courthouse in Missouri on their way east, Rippon sailed for Europe and Housel returned to Boulder. In January 1889 she gave birth to a daughter, Miriam, in Stuttgart, Germany. Later that year, Housel graduated from CU and moved to Germany, where his wife paid for him to attend graduate school and watch over their daughter while she returned to her job at CU. As Rippon’s biographer Silvia Pettem wrote, “The idea of a Victorian wife financially supporting her husband and family was highly unusual, but Mary’s private life was anything but conventional.”

For the next 23 years, until his death in a motorcycle accident in Michigan in 1912, Rippon supported Housel. Through his numerous career changes, and even after their divorce and his remarriage, Rippon continued to pay Housel’s various mortgages, to support his numerous failed business ventures, and to cover his daily bills. She also spent a considerable part of each summer vacation with her daughter, Miriam, who referred to Rippon as “Aunt Mary.” Not until Miriam moved to Boulder after her own divorce in the 1920s and accepted a job as a language instructor did Rippon explain to her that she was her mother. Still, in an arrangement that suited both women, Miriam continued to refer to her mother as her aunt. When Rippon died in 1935, the Daily Camera wrote that Rippon was survived by a nephew in Topeka, and that “Mrs. Miriam Rieder, assistant professor in Romance languages at the University, was one of Miss Rippon’s greatest friends, and Mrs. Rieder’s son, Wilfred, was her protégé.” Of course, “protégé” in this instance also meant “grandson,” and for Wilfred, the secret remained just that until 1987, when he explained the true story and donated his grandmother’s diaries and ledgers to the University Archives.

By the time of her grandson’s revelation, students had enjoyed the Mary Rippon Theater for more than 50 years. In 1936 at the suggestion of CU president George Norlin, and with donations from her former students and from the Works Progress Administration, work began on the project. Partially completed, the amphitheater was dedicated in June of that year at Alumni Day. Considering that Rippon never received a college degree of any kind, it seems only fitting that her fans and supporters have called on the Regents to grant her an honorary doctorate from the university she helped build.

For more on Rippon, see Silvia Pettem, Separate Lives: The Story of Mary Rippon (Longmont, Colorado: The Book Lode, 1999) and the Department of Sociology’s web page, socsci.colorado.edu/SOC/Department/rippon.
Every year the department sends over 200 new alumni out into the world, confident that they will find creative ways to put their history educations to use in their work and daily lives. Please keep us updated on your life after CU-Boulder. Send in the reader response form or e-mail us at history@colorado.edu.

Billie Barnes Jensen (BA '55, MA '59, PhD '62) is an emerita professor at San José State University in California in the Department of History. She fondly remembers Jack Main as he taught with her at San José before moving on.

Thomas F. Armstrong (BA '68, MA '70) has taught and served as a college administrator for over 30 years at Georgia College and State University, Francis Marion University, Texas Wesleyan University, and Tennessee Wesleyan College. Dr. Armstrong (PhD, Virginia '74) is now the vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of history at Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

Scott Kleeb (BA '00) went on from CU to do his PhD in American history at Yale. He is now putting the finishing touches on his dissertation, “The Atlantic West: Cowboys, Capitalists, and the Making of an American Myth.” He has also lately been named the Democratic Party’s candidate for Representative from the Third Congressional District of Nebraska, a vast region that includes the entire state outside of the vicinities of Lincoln and Omaha. Having worked for years on his grandparents’ ranch near Scottsbluff, Scott says that he is at home around cattle—a qualification that he hopes will reassure electors who might otherwise be suspicious of someone who had earned degrees at CU and Yale.

Julie Severson (MA '02) is presently working on her PhD at the University of Washington in the Department of Women's Studies. Her dissertation is a history of the doctor-patient relationship and the informed consent process. Next year she will apply to law school and she wants to eventually have a career in clinical bioethics.

Constance Clark (PhD '02) is an assistant professor of American Culture at Randolph-Macon Women's College in Virginia. She received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the year 2005–06. This award will allow her to finish her book, Evolution in the Jazz Age, now under contract with Johns Hopkins University Press.

Marc Matera (MA '02) is currently a PhD student in the history department at Rutgers University. In addition to his dissertation project, “Colonial Intellectuals and Interwar Pan-Africanism in Britain, 1919–1945,” he is co-authoring a book on the Igbo Women’s War in Nigeria with Susan Kent.

Todd Laugen (PhD '05) received the Dissertation Award from CU’s Graduate Committee on the Arts and Humanities this year. He begins his new tenure-track job at the Metropolitan State College of Denver this fall.

Gloria Lund Main and Jackson Turner Main Graduate Fund in History

The Department of History is pleased to continue offering this fellowship for graduate students in honor of Gloria Main and in memory of Jackson Turner Main. We hope to build this fund into a fellowship endowment of $100,000 or more. It will be selectively awarded to qualified history graduate students to support dissertation research and writing on topics broadly related to the social foundations of the modern world. The second Main Fellowship was awarded to Jessica Martin for her dissertation titled “Selling America to the World: American Big Business, the Eisenhower Administration, and the Cold War.”

Please consider honoring the Mains and showing your support for the department by making a contribution to continue building this new endowment. To make a donation, make a check payable to the University of Colorado Foundation, specifically earmarked for the Main Graduate History Fund. Mail to:

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Second Lt. James J. Cathey

Second Lt. James J. Cathey (BA ‘04) was killed in Iraq on August 21, 2005. He was a double major in history and anthropology and graduated from CU-Boulder in only three years. He is survived by his wife, Katherine Cathey, of Brighton, Colorado, and his family in Reno, Nevada.

Jeffrey William Limerick

Jeffrey William Limerick, beloved husband of Professor Patricia Nelson Limerick, died of a stroke in Boulder on February 1, 2005, when he was only 57 years old. Trained at the University of California at Berkeley and Yale University, Jeff Limerick became a successful architect who also taught and wrote about architecture. He had particular admiration for California’s Bernard Maybeck but he knew the history of every important building in the United States and could give entertaining off-the-cuff discourses on the trials and tribulations of major architects all around the world. Jeff always knew where to go and what to see when traveling. But Jeff’s interests ranged well beyond buildings and cities. He followed local as well as national politics, commenting wryly and perceptively on the quirks of planners, activists, and those in office. Humane and gentle as he was, he was a smart, worldly-wise realist when it came to environmental and urban issues.

Jeff enjoyed playing with his cats, dining at fine restaurants, and watching old movies late at night while working at his drawing table. He was a past master at solving murder mysteries, and helped many aspiring authors to improve their plots. Friends cherished his very funny limericks, and a privileged few found themselves the butt of his practical jokes.

Jeff Limerick valued good wine, good food, and good conversation, but above all, he loved life, friendship, and the joyous companionship of a grateful wife. He is dearly missed by all who knew him, for to know Jeff Limerick was to love him.

—by Gloria Main
Tom Thomas, 20th Century U.S.
Tom, who completed his graduate work in history at CU-Boulder, is a historian and planner at the National Park Service's Denver Service Center. He teaches a course in Colorado history at CU-Boulder.

Nancy Vavra, Russian History, Gender
Nancy teaches courses in Russian history and European women’s and gender history. She is currently revising her dissertation, Rabotnitsa, Constructing a Bolshevik Ideal: Women and the New Soviet State.

Seth Ward, Jewish History
Seth teaches courses in Jewish History in all periods for the history department. His research interests include Islamic and Jewish studies, especially Jewish-Islamic interaction and Jewish status in Islamic law and tradition; Judaeo-Arabic studies, Maimonides, and crypto-Judaism in the U.S., Southwest. This fall Seth is also teaching Islam and Judaism, Christianity and Islam as a sabbatical replacement for Professor Frederick M. Denny in the religious studies department.

William Wei, Modern China, Asian-American History and Culture
William is director of the Sewall Residential Academic Program at CU-Boulder and the senior China expert in the department, specializing on the Republican Period (1911–49). He has been appointed academic dean for the Semester at Sea summer 2006 voyage to Asia. He is currently working on a book-length study of “Asians in Colorado, 1870–present” and continues his research on revolution and counter-revolution in China.

Timothy Weston, Modern China, Intellectual

Marcia Yonemoto, Early Modern Japan
Marcia's book, Mapping Early Modern Japan: Space, Place, and Culture in the Tokugawa Period, has been nominated for the Pacific Coast Branch Prize from the American Historical Association for the best first book by a scholar in the Pacific Coast region. She is currently at work on her second book project on women's writing and the geography of gender.

Thomas Zeiler, U.S. Diplomatic
Tom and his family spent this past year in Tokyo on a Fulbright Fellowship. He taught at the University of Tokyo and Japan Women's University, lectured around the country (sponsored by the U.S. Embassy) and in China and Vietnam, and gathered material for his book, a global history of World War II, under contract with Oxford University Press.

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As with state-funded institutions of higher education throughout the country, the need to increase the share of expenses covered by private funding at the University of Colorado continues, with tight state budgets demanding substantial tuition increases. I am very grateful to all of you who have helped meet the department’s needs during the past year, and hope many others will seriously consider joining with the HAB members, and many graduates, faculty, and friends of the Department of History, in generously contributing to support the ongoing work of the department. We need and greatly appreciate your assistance in helping the department to fulfill its mission. In addition, please take a few minutes to share with us your ideas, news, and information regarding how we can all collaborate to promote the teaching and research objectives of the department’s faculty, and meet the learning and career development needs of its students at all levels. If you would like to take a more active role working with the HAB in fulfilling its mission of support, please let us know that as well. A Response Form is included in the back of this Newsletter to assist you both with making a contribution and providing us with feedback. Please complete it today, and thank you!

Edward C. Coffey
Chair, History Advisory Board
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Comments:

We welcome your feedback! What would you like to see in the next issue? What types of events and programs would you like to see the department sponsor in the future? What have you been doing with your history degree?
Here’s What’s Happening This Year in History!

2005

Sept. 17-18  Sixth Annual Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference
Oct. 7      History Advisory Board Meeting
Dec. 16     Fall Commencement, Coors Events/Conference Center, 9:30 a.m.

2006

April 29    Colorado History Day
May 11      Department of History Spring Commencement, Mary Rippon Outdoor Amphitheater, 5:00 p.m.
May 12      Spring Commencement, Folsom Field, 8:30 a.m.

For more information on these and other events, or to be added to the Department of History e-mail announcement listserv, please call 303.492.6683 or e-mail history@colorado.edu.