

THE SEXTANT

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A Brief History of World History

Starting in the fall semester of 2006, the Department of History and Anthropology offered a new specialization for its graduate students — World History, which has replaced the Industrial History track. It had been in the developmental stages since mid 2005. Dr. Christopher DeRosa, one department leader helping to launch the program, feels that offering World History is a “good way to deliver the faculty’s strengths to students, and to help those students with their careers.”

The Monmouth Department of History and Anthropology is set up perfectly for this program. As world history has been described as a place where history meets the social sciences, it helps that the department already contains aspects of history, anthropology and geography.

World History is a unique discipline. Its lineage can be traced to the 1950s, and it is offered by a limited number of schools such as Temple, Perdue, U.C. Santa Cruz and the University of Hawaii at Manoa, which puts Monmouth at the forefront in this field.

Many teachers, of both high school and college level history, are being asked to move away from the Euro-centric model of instruction. The direction is toward a scenario that views history outside the relationship between nation-states and their rise and fall. Monmouth is answering the call and providing instruction to these teachers who are entering the field.

The objective of our World History Department is to study the past without borders, through an observation of transnational occurrences—the interconnectedness between cultures, regions and nations.

What is germane to historians in a world program? Topics range from

something as small as village life or patterns of everyday living, to events on a much larger scale, such as global environmental or medical upheaval. World system theory, represented today by globalization, and finding its roots in the European world economy created in the late fifteenth and early

sixteenth century, will be an important part of the Monmouth program as well. The proliferation of capitalism through globalization and the rise of the internet, both of which cause the globe to appear a bit smaller, have made world history relevant to mod-

ern society. It needs to be analyzed and understood now more than ever. Not only does the World History program cross borders, it

crosses the centuries. Topics like invasion and war will be studied in the World History program, but they will be approached demographically. For instance, when observing armed conflict, students will focus on the patterns, like trade or colonization, that changed as a result of it.

Professors will lead classes according to their varying areas of expertise. Dr. Karen Schmelzkopf for instance, will instruct on maps and tourism; Dr. Kenneth Stunkel on China and Japan; Dr. William Mitchell on the formation of the global system; Dr. Julius Adekunle on the decolonization of Africa; Dr. Katherine Parkin on the comparative history of the family. This is just the tip of the iceberg. There are far too many to mention here. Dr. Fred McKittrick has said, echoing the sentiments of the faculty, that “this is a program that fits a need, but also plays to the strengths of our department.”

The new program has been lauded by the students, and interest in world history is definitely there. Several of this reporter’s colleagues have already joined the program, and they love the classes. Graduate student Rick Pachman has called it “rewarding.”

Offering World History as a discipline will be valuable for the careers and development of Monmouth University students as they proceed, either teaching in the classroom, or contributing in any capacity to the field of history.



Spearhead of the World History program.
L to R: Dr. Mustafa Aksakal, Dr. Fred McKittrick and Dr. Chris DeRosa.

something as small as village life or patterns of everyday living, to events on a much larger scale, such as global environmental or medical upheaval. World system theory, represented today by globalization, and finding its roots in the European world economy created in the late fifteenth and early

sixteenth century, will be an important part of the Monmouth program as well. The proliferation of capitalism through globalization and the rise of the internet, both of which cause the globe to appear a bit smaller, have made world history relevant to modern society. It needs to be analyzed and understood now more than ever. Not only does the World History program cross borders, it

crosses the centuries. Studying World History at Monmouth University brings students the knowledge of, and the ability to in-

Association of Graduate Students of History

During the Spring semester of 2006, Dr. Mustafa Aksakal and graduate student David Beales decided to start an association for graduate history students. Meetings started that same Fall and the club has come to be known by its acronym, AGSH, which stands for the Association of Graduate Students of History.

The launch occurred this fall after the submission of the club’s constitution to Monmouth University leadership. The central tenets of its charter according to Beales, are “to increase communication socially and academically amongst history students.” They hope to eventually include perform-

ing some community service as part of membership as well.

To date, the AGSH has been responsible for, or participated in, sev-



Co-Founder of the AGSH, David Beales.

eral campus events, including the welcome party, a talk on what goes into writing a thesis led by Dr. Chris DeRosa and a weekly meeting on Wednesdays from 5 to 6 pm in the student center.

As of the time this article was written, the club boasted a membership of roughly fifty people, with interest growing.

The executive board, with Beales at the forefront, hopes to meet shortly to send out a call for papers which will lead to a campus conference at Monmouth.

Beales has made a valuable contribution to the Monmouth community.

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MU Students, Professor Present at Conference

Three of our number in the Department of History and Anthropology were offered the opportunity to present their respective papers at Marist College's 15th annual *Women and Society Conference* in November of 2006. The attendees included two graduate students, Evie Rodriguez and Melissa Ziobro, and one professor, Dr. Katherine Parkin.

All three Monmouth delegates appeared on the same panel, called *Balancing Power: Race, Gender and Identity*. Their papers, while similar in theme, were diverse and interesting. They gave the proceedings a universal appeal, and all three presentations met with praise from an enthusiastic audience who were not shy about asking questions afterward.

Rodriguez presented her paper entitled *Transracial Adoption: The Matching of the Unmatchable*, Ziobro spoke about her findings in a paper called "Skirted Soldiers" *Get the Message*

Through: an analysis of the gender integration of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, WW II, and Dr. Parkin presented her paper, *Leap Year 1908: Cupid at Gunpoint*.

There was an extensive Q&A following the panel and the Monmouth delegates each answered several inquiries about their work. Evie Rodriguez, who was presenting for the first time, was quoted as saying that the audience questions were "insightful and thought provoking," and that she received valuable suggestions on approaches she had not considered for her paper. Overall, Rodriguez felt "pleased with the audience's interest in the subject matter."

In an interview with Dr. Parkin about the students who went with her to Marist, she stated that the delegates "represented Monmouth well. They were professional and generated intense interest with their research." Congrats all!



Monmouth delegates to the 15th annual Women and Society Conference at Marist College, November '06.

L to R: Melissa Ziobro, Dr. Katherine Parkin and Evelyn Rodriguez.

Melissa Ziobro Live in Conference at SLC

Article and on location reporting by Jeffrey Salzberger

Bronxville, NY -
Saturday March 3, 2007

Monmouth alum Melissa Ziobro was selected by Sarah Lawrence College to present her paper, "Pollyanna" *Perseveres: An Analysis of the Coping Mechanisms Employed by Women Integrating into the U.S. Army during World War II*, at the Ninth Annual Women's History Conference this past March.

The conference was entitled *Women at War: Soldiers, Sisters, Survivors*. Ziobro's field of study and the paper she presented fit flawlessly into the conference's overall theme.

This reporter had the privilege of

attending the Sarah Lawrence event and watching Ziobro in action. The main building for paper presentations was the Heimbold Visual Arts Center on SLC's bucolic, Westchester, New York campus. Despite the idyllic surroundings, the cavernous visual arts center looms like an airplane hanger.

For Ziobro, the day was a whirlwind of driving from the Jersey shore to Bronxville, NY in time to take in a few presentations, meet with colleagues, and last but not least, present her own work.

Ziobro was part of a panel called *Women in Uniform*. The section started at 3:15 and lasted until 5 pm, and included two other speakers.



Melissa Ziobro in
Bronxville, NY.

Ziobro led things off, but not before she found out that one of the presenters on her panel was a no show. When organizers pondered how they would fill the time because of the empty slot, Melissa casually replied, "I'll just do the long version.

I have both." Not only had she prepared a presentation, she was also ready to go with a longer format.

As a speaker, Ziobro was smooth and light-hearted, using a touch of humor to warm up the room. It was a full house, and the presentation was well received by the audience. A brief Q&A followed the panel, and Ziobro fielded several questions, showing her superior knowledge of the topic she has been researching.

Melissa Ziobro was an outstanding representative of Monmouth University. She captivated those present in the rustic environs of Sarah Lawrence College. The event was informative and a great deal of fun. We hope you can join us in the next issue for another *Sextant* road trip.

2 AM & Feel Like Talking History? Try eCampus Online Discussion Forum!

With the formation of the Association of Graduate Students of History (AGSH) in the fall of 2006, came the eCampus forum - an online discussion group with the same mission as the club. The eCampus venue was founded by David Beales (pictured on page 1), and was a product of the same meeting with Dr. Mustafa Aksakal that spawned the AGSH.

While the association has weekly meetings, many of its members work and can not get to campus by the scheduled time, so an electronic forum is necessary. "This should keep everyone involved in the community. It's important to have access to input and a free exchange of ideas. What's great about eCampus is that it no longer matters

where you are or what time it is when you feel like getting involved," said Beales during our interview.

Graduate students are automatically enrolled in the eCampus network, so anyone, regardless of their membership in the AGSH can log on, post or just read. There are a wide variety of topics represented in the discussion threads, from SGA elections to the executive committee of the AGSH itself, and from research questions or points of interest to debates on what can be done to improve the school or department.

Beales hopes that the online arm of the AGSH will be used for posting works in progress so that they can be subjected to valuable peer review and

critique, or to plan social gatherings like a proposed ski trip.

eCampus is easier to follow than your email, as the discussion threads are visible and organized automatically according to the writer. While many of the

"It's a great way to develop social and academic relationships ..."

postings are serious and meant to generate interest or serious debate, there are also amusing anecdotes about history or about classes. It is easy to use and a lot of fun to read.

Beales said that the online forum is

"picking up steam and building a base of regular contributors. It is a great way to develop social and academic relationships despite our hectic 21st Century lives." It is a remarkable addition to the AGSH, and it is bound to get more successful as the community grows.

This online discussion venue, along with the Association of Graduate Students of History, are two fantastic contributions by David Beales for the benefit of graduate students in the Department of History and Anthropology. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to get involved in a lively discussion, either at an AGSH Wednesday dinner meeting, or online whenever you want.



In the Field and on the Move



In March of 2006, the *Fire Island News* hired **Jeffrey Salzberger**, a graduate student in American history at Monmouth University. Boasting a pass-along readership of 35,000, the *Fire Island News* is a seasonal weekly paper out of Long Island, NY.

His official job title at the newspaper is historian, but the tasks assigned to him include archive management and preservation, as well as the writing or reproduction of historical articles. The paper is only published between May and September, but Salzberger is busy during this off-season trying to secure a grant which may facilitate the digitizing of the archives.

He is also laying the groundwork for several fundraisers and an archival show at the Ocean Beach Historical Society, which will take place during the summer of 2007. The show will feature many of the photos, objects and ephemera which Salzberger has found and identified. He was quoted as saying, "Some of these objects haven't been handled since the paper's founding 50 years ago, and the sea water has been brutal. It's easier for me to identify things and put them into an historical context, than to preserve them, but I'm learning as I go. This stuff needs to be saved, and I think I can help accomplish that goal. Also, all my colleagues at Monmouth have been quite helpful."

He also said that the job has been rewarding, and that it has helped him to "write accessible history for a wider public." He hopes to continue the work for at least a few more seasons.

Salzberger has also recently been accepted to present a paper on some of his Fire Island finds at a conference entitled *Things That Move: The Material Worlds of Tourism and Travel*. The conference will take place this summer at Leeds Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom.



Kenneth Foulks is currently a graduate student at Monmouth University where he focuses on American history. Aside from his academic pursuits, Foulks has been with the U.S. military for almost 18 years, and currently holds the rank of Major in the reserves.

Part of his work in this capacity has led him to attend the Command and General Staff College, where he is enrolled in a three phase, web based curriculum. The CGSC stresses education and leadership for a division level and higher, and the classes vary in subject matter. Some topics that Foulks is covering include history, leadership, military strategy and homeland defense. He is currently working on a paper which deals with the training, deployment and outcome of the American Expeditionary Force during WWI. Foulks, who enjoys his endeavors with the CGSC says that they stress education "both internally and externally," and that it is a "road to self improvement."

After graduating from the CGSC in about two years, Foulks will be able to attain the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, and hopes to attend the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Perhaps most importantly with respect to his work, Foulks has stated that "when it's something you like to do it's really not work."



Kristina Maravegias is currently obtaining her Master of Arts in History at Monmouth.

Kristina holds a graduate assistantship in the History and Anthropology Department and does work with several professors, including some interesting archaeological studies with Dr. Richard Veit.

To satisfy her love of archaeology, Maravegias travels to Bamburgh in the

United Kingdom during the summer to work on a dig at what she has described as "one of the finest sites in England." The excavations take place at a castle, its associated burial grounds and environs.

She has been at work on this independently run research project for the past two years and will continue this season. In the past she has worked as an intern in the Finds Department, processing artifacts and notifying the proper expert corresponding to each item. **(Continued on p. 4)**



Yvette Florio Lane (M.A., 2006) of Keyport, NJ, entered the Rutgers University Ph.D. history program as a Graduate Fellow in the fall of 2006. Lane was awarded four years of financial support by the Rutgers Graduate School and is completing coursework in the Modern European and Women and Gender concentrations. Last spring, she defended her Monmouth master's thesis, "*The Goddess of Rayon': Artificial Silk, Gender, and Class in the Construction of Modernity in Germany's Golden Twenties.*" The thesis is an analysis of the ways in which the development and use of synthetic fabrics chal-

lenged gender and class roles in interwar Germany. Lane's research drew upon a wealth of primary sources, including contemporary magazines, newspapers, and popular fiction. She facilitated this research by taking German language courses concurrently with her history courses. This summer she will travel overseas to conduct research and to further develop her German skills.

While at Monmouth, Lane was a recipient of the Monmouth Graduate Scholars Fellowship award and also assisted numerous faculty members with their research projects. She served as the president of the Phi Alpha Theta honors society, and was awarded a graduate assistantship in the Department of History and Anthropology by the Graduate School. In 2006, she was named the Department of History and Anthropology's Outstanding Graduate Scholar and won the Phi Alpha Theta Service Award.

Just as active off campus, she has published essays in the *Encyclopedia of the Home Front* (ABC-CLIO, 2006) as well as in several other forthcoming publications, and has presented papers at Brown University, University of Illinois, Temple University, and Rutgers University graduate conferences.



Kathleen Shapiro is currently in the process of obtaining her Master of Arts in United States history at Monmouth University where she also did her undergraduate work in history and anthropology.

Shapiro has held a graduate assistantship in the History and Anthropology department for the past two and a half years, and has had a wide variety of research experience with various professors. She has done a great deal of primary research, created photo archives, and built databases for members of the department.

Her own work has gotten her published on a number of occasions. As an undergraduate, Shapiro's senior thesis was awarded a monetary prize and published in a journal by The New Jersey Project on Inclusive Scholarship, Curriculum and Teaching. It was one of nine winning entries.

Recently, Shapiro has had some experience with peer review, providing her critique of Sherry B. Ortner's, *New Jersey Dreaming: Capital, Culture, and the Class of '58*. Her review, published on H-net, is entitled "Beyond Poodle Skirts and Rock 'n Roll."

We at *The Sextant* asked Kathy how she manages all this work plus her thesis which requires a great deal of travel and field time, and she said that "We have an extremely supportive department ... everyone is very approachable and helpful."

Overall, Shapiro has had and continues to have a very rewarding experience at Monmouth University. She feels that the program is "arduous but rewarding."

It should be noted that Kathleen Shapiro was also on the Student Committee for the Global Understanding Project, and she was a Student Representative to the Human Relations Advisory Council.

Look for more student and alumni highlights coming in the next *Sextant!* Interviews are going on now. If you have some news to share, drop us a line at 917-699-8008.

The Sextant

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY'S GRADUATE HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Our Masthead

Including all staff, volunteers, photographers and contributors in any capacity whatsoever.

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And a special thank you to Sandy Villa as well as the entire Department of History and Anthropology for their continued support. Without all of you, this newsletter would not have been possible.

THE SEXTANT

WHERE HISTORIANS LOOK FORWARD

In the Field and on the Move

(Kristina Maravegias—continued from page 3)

This year however, she will work as a staff member and Assistant to the Director of Finance and Administration.

She found the project in Bamburgh online, and has enjoyed her time with the program, watching as it has gained exposure on the BBC's, *Meet the Ancestors*.

Some of the finds Maravegias has witnessed are fascinating, and include skeletal remains, metalwork, coins, weapons, ceramics, and several pieces that have been lauded as one of a kind.

She can not wait to return to Bamburgh this summer.

Box Scores:

Our section on the recently defended thesis

-December 12, 2006: **Melissa Ziobro's**, "Skirted Soldiers" *Get the Message Through: An Analysis of the Gender Integration of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, World War II*.

-March 21, 2007: **Roberto Ferragina's**, *Preventing a Communist Italy: U.S.-Italian Relations, 1943-1955*.

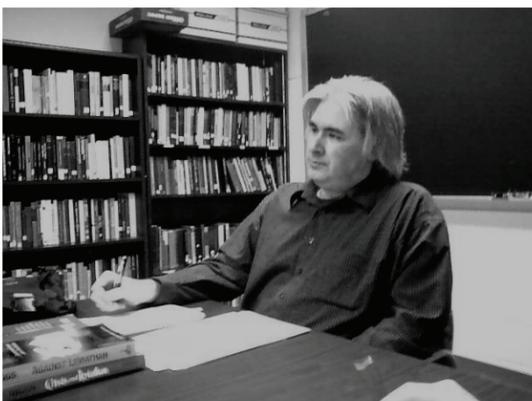
-March 27, 2007: **Jim Tesoriero's**, *The Property Tax Ordinance of 1921 and the Impact on Gravesend, Brooklyn*.

-April 23, 2007: **Jennifer Giannone's**, *Eleanor of Aquitaine's Court of Love at Poitiers*.

-May 3, 2007: **Kathleen Shapiro's**, *Woodbine: An American Jewish Response to Russian Jewish Immigration in the Progressive Era* & **Kevin Heyer's**, *Sputnik: The Satellite that Propelled Congress to Invest in Basic Scientific Research in Universities*.

-May 7, 2007: **Martin Clemis's**, *If Special Care is Taken: American Civil-Military Relations and the Protection of Cultural Property During the Second World War*.

View to a Prospectus Defense



Graduate student **Leo Zaccari** sits to defend his thesis prospectus in front of 3 faculty members, including Dr. Francis Dooley, Dr. Kenneth Stunkel and Dr. Chris DeRosa. It was a thought provoking affair, and Zaccari said it helped him to narrow and focus his topic. He called the experience, "indispensable."



Pictured Above L to R: First and second readers, Dr. Stunkel and Dr. Dooley respectively, and departmental Dean, Dr. DeRosa offer Zaccari constructive criticism on the outline for his upcoming thesis on taxation. The atmosphere in the conference room was relaxed and conducive to discussion and debate on the chosen topic.

Seen Anything Good Lately?



Letters from Iwo Jima

Director: Clint Eastwood

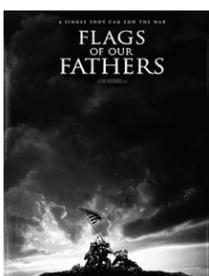
This epic recounts the story of Japanese defenders on Iwo Jima during their protracted battle with U.S. Marines for 36 days in February and March of 1945.

It is a large movie with an even larger budget, and none of the talent and effort of cast and crew were wasted in producing this brutal masterwork.

The composition of this film is bleak and desolate. The tone is represented by washed out yet strong colors like black, grey, white and green. This palette invokes the composition of the volcanic island which is the film's setting.

Letters was extremely well acted by most, if not all cast members, but the breakaway performance was offered by Tsuyoshi Ihara, who plays Baron Nishi, a seasoned officer and former Olympic athlete. His role was filled with humor and melancholy, and was

truly inspiring. 4 of 5 *Sextants*



Flags of our Fathers

Director:

Clint Eastwood

Eastwood's adaptation of the non-fiction book about Iwo

Jima by James Bradley is the story of the American side of the battle. This film is the counterpart and predecessor to *Letters from Iwo Jima*.

Clint Eastwood tried too hard to follow the parameters of the book, and failed to create either an original work or one that did justice to the book which inspired it. It would have been more productive to start with a clean slate as he did with *Letters*.

The story is framed around the lives of the six flag raisers from the famous photograph that has become an important piece of Marine Corps iconography. Their importance in the film however, is seemingly unnecessary and even problematic. Eastwood uses the three flag raisers who survived the battle to frame the story. Because of this, the narrative suffers due to the constant use of flashbacks and flashforwards.

Ryan Phillippe, who plays a Navy Corpsman on Iwo Jima, goes no further than playing his usual Ryan Phillippe. Adam Beach on the other hand, is remarkable as Ira Hayes, and gives a wonderful if sad performance.

Overall, this movie was not noteworthy, but some of the acting does manage to get it ...

2.5 out of 5 *Sextants*.



Amazing Grace

Director: Michael Apted

This is a film based on the life of English anti-slavery trailblazer, William Wilberforce. The screenplay was written by Steven Knight, and is informative as well as entertaining.

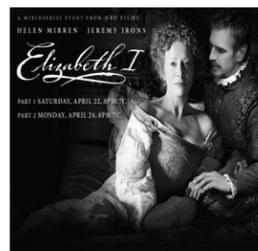
The title comes from the song *Amazing Grace*, which Wilberforce sings in a gentleman's club after he gets the law passed to abolish slavery. The scene is heart warming and more than a little bit cheesy (if there is ever room for it, it's here). Albert Finney, who plays John Newton, the curate and repentant ex-slave trader who wrote the song, gives a tremendous performance as he always does.

The relationship between Wilberforce, played by Ioan Gruffudd, and William Pitt the Younger, played by Benedict Cumberbatch, is as good as any buddy movie pair up. They seem to have a natural chemistry.

This movie was an effortless

watch. It had a moving soundtrack, and while being heavy handed at times, it is well worth watching.

4.5 out of 5 *Sextants*.



Elizabeth I

Director: Tom Hooper

This film was made for HBO, and is another success in a long line of

lauded in-house productions for the cable network.

The story of Elizabeth I certainly does not lack excitement, and neither does this movie. Historically accurate and filmed on a high budget (as HBO is riding the wave of Sopranos revenue), this movie is well worth watching on DVD, VHS, or whichever medium you have available to you.

Performances by Helen Mirren (as Elizabeth I) and Jeremy Irons (as Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester) are flawless.

Everyone with a passion for history should see this epic. 5 out of 5 *Sextants*.



In our U.S. vs. British history competition this issue, the English have come away the winners with 9.5 *Sextants* to the U.S. score of 6.5. Eastwood however, gets points for attempting to take on the empire single handedly. Clint, you are a cowboy!