



# Monmouth University

## The Sextant

### History Department Graduate Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

Fall 2009

## Welcome Back Graduate Students

By Jessica Solano

As the semester closes and 2010 quickly approaches there is plenty of department news to share. On November 6th, the faculty and graduate students came together at the department Wine and Cheese gathering and enjoyed a wonderful evening filled with laughter and engaging conversation. Later in the month, we celebrated as the newest members of the Phi Alpha

Theta History Honor Society were inducted on November 20th. On December 3rd, the Graduate Student Association came together again to discuss a variety of topics, including a discussion led by Dr. Chris DeRosa advising students on how to decide between and prepare for thesis writing versus completing the M.A. program with a comprehensive exam.

I am also excited to point out a new feature in *The Sextant* that highlights upcoming conferences and Calls for Papers. Finally, I would like to encourage everyone to join us at our upcoming History Association meetings when you can. The meetings provide an excellent opportunity to meet other students, to discuss research projects, and to share countless ideas.

## Phi Alpha Theta Inductees for Fall 2009



Pictured from left: Pedro Torres, Ericka Crisci, John Fraterrigo, and Michael Maiden.

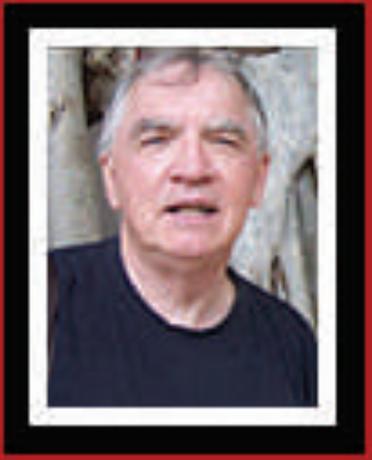
On November 20, 2009 the History and Anthropology Department hosted the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society and the Lambda Alpha Anthropology Honor Society Induction Ceremony in the Wilson Auditorium. The induction ceremony was lead by faculty advisors, Dr. Aaron Ansell and Professor Hettie Williams. The following graduate students were in-

ducted into the Phi Alpha Theta honor society; Kelly Burns, Chester Campbell, Evelyn Carlson, April Chiechelo, Ericka Crisci, John Fraterrigo, Joseph Fredericks, Michael Maiden, Patricia Maloney, Joan Manzo, Lindsay Muruska, Patricia May, Sarah Pace, Eileen Reinhard, and Pedro Torres. After the induction ceremony, the evening continued with dinner and an

excellent paper presentation in the Club Dining Room. The featured speaker of the evening was Catherine Fennell, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race at Columbia University. Dr Fennell is the author of "Project Heat' and Sensory Politics in Redeveloping Chicago Public Housing."

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*“Both the faculty and students really benefit at Monmouth from the combination of History and Anthropology. It’s a great combination.”*

### By Molly McDonald

On so many levels, Bill Mitchell is not where one would expect him to be. Knowing him to be a professor of Anthropology, one might logically look for him on the third floor of Howard Hall where all the other members of the Anthropology Department are located. He is not there. His office is in the Wilson Annex and visiting him requires a walk downstairs where the strains of Tosca or Aida might rise from his open office door. However, don’t look for him at the Wilson Annex today because he won’t be there. For the rest of the academic year he can be found occupying the office of the Dean of the Honors Program located in the Beechwood Residence Hall. And he might not even be teaching Anthropology, he

# Faculty Profile

## *Finding Dr. Mitchell*

has taught HS 503, Introduction to World History and HS 598, Formation of the Global System.

Locating Dr. Mitchell at Beechwood Hall, I asked how he ended up at the Honors School and - what on earth the Honors School actually is. He replied that he was asked to fill in for the dean who is on a leave of absence. Having an affinity to the program he was glad to accept. He explained that the Honors School was his idea. “Actually it’s something I began. Back in the late 70’s, I had two very good students who left Monmouth, not because of the teachers or curriculum, but because they were missing an intellectual exchange among their peers.” Realizing that there was a need at Monmouth that was not being met, he proposed the program and “What began as small program in 1982, now includes a couple of hundred students. A student selects a major and then may enter the Honors Program if they qualify. The classes for honors students are often clustered: for in-

stance there’s a cluster of anthropology, history and English classes. The same students are in the classes and the teachers interconnect with one another and they try to have some common theme.”

“I’ve always loved teaching and I’ve always loved mentoring. A lot of what I do here at the Honors School is mentoring.”

And speaking of teaching, I asked how he ended up teaching history after a lifetime of teaching anthropology? He said that happened as a consequence of the two disciplines, history and anthropology being combined in one department. “Both the faculty and students really benefit at Monmouth from the combination of History and Anthropology. It’s a great combination. Both historians and anthropologists like context, they like description, the notion of contingency, historical contingency, that things are not predetermined and that there may be some contingent element that affects the way things turned out.”

## Faculty Profile continued . . .

“Also, anthropology began as an historical discipline and as part of that historical understanding, anthropology was further divided into cultural anthropology, linguistics, archaeology and biological anthropology. For instance, a major focus of biological anthropology was the historical development of humans as biological organisms - our human evolution. Linguistics has a strong historical component especially its study of the development of language families. Archaeology is the study of human past through material remains. Cultural anthropology also has this historical perspective. In the nineteenth century cultural anthropology had an evolutionary focus but back then it was speculative and artificially constructed: different societies were placed on a linear scale, going back to the old *scala naturae*, the scale of nature, where you had primitive peoples, less primitive peoples and the civilized peoples, which of course was us.

“My own research in the Andes, has a strong historical component. I not only use my own observations and oral narratives to build

life histories, but also I use archival materials, going into the parish records, the municipal marriage records, birth records and those kinds of things that are available. Church records are fairly extensive but municipal records only begin with the 1950’s.

“My concern in the Andes has been the change in the culture: what have been the changes in this peasant society in the Ayacucho Valley and in other Andean peasant societies. An advantage of working with a third world area is the collaboration you get among historians, anthropologists and literature specialists. There aren’t many of us working in the Andes and there’s a lot of cross-fertilization.

“Another significant area of anthropological research is ethno-history. There’s a journal called *Ethnohistory* to which historians also contribute, and a society called Ethnohistory. I use ethno-historians in my discussion of the Inca. Whereas archaeologists primarily rely on material remains, ethno-historians rely on additional materials available. In the case of the Andes, those

additional remains are the accounts of the chroniclers, both the native Andean and Spanish chroniclers. Ethno-historians also rely on the accounts of the inspectors who visited and reported back to the Viceroy, and they also rely on court records. Natives of the Andes quickly realized that they could use the Spanish system to defend their own interests and they became very litigious. There are many court records available from the sixteenth century. The Spanish were great record keepers.”

Dr. Mitchell ended our meeting with a fascinating comment. He said “Good research is specific but always specific in a larger context. My research would be meaningless if I did not put it into a global context.” And thus he is a world historian.

I left Dr. Mitchell as he hurried to another appointment across campus. It’s obvious to all who know him that Dr. Mitchell is dedicated to his field and to his students. The secretary at the Honors School said that he is loved by the students there. I count it as an honor to have him as a teacher, a mentor and a friend.



# Alumni News

## Celebrating

### History at Archives Day

**Chrissie Reilly,**

Staff Historian

The CECOM LCMC Historical Office at Fort Monmouth spent Saturday October 10, 2009 promoting Fort Monmouth's rich history at the Monmouth County Archives' 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Archives and History Day.

Over 60 different New Jersey-based archives and history organizations participated in the event, which hundreds of people attended.

This year's theme was "New Jersey During the Great Depression." The CECOM LCMC historians consequently worked with a graphic artist to design an exhibit highlighting the construction effort of Fort Monmouth during the 1930s.

In 1929 the Signal Corps consolidated the various radio laboratories around the country at Fort Monmouth, making it the hub of Signal Corps activity in the country. This led to a major construction effort at the fort that generated local jobs at a time when the county particularly needed them.

The exhibit included photographs of the tents in which the first Soldiers here lived, and the temporary wooden structures that replaced them. Buildings constructed during the Great Depression, such as Squier, Russel, and Allison Hall, were shown as they looked then and as they look today. Photos also depicted Works Progress Administration personnel at work, here.



**Monmouth University alumni, Melissa Ziobro, '05 and G'07, Norma Jean Garrton, '08, and Chrissie Reilly, G'09, showcase Fort Monmouth's history at Monmouth County's Archives and History Day. U.S. Army Photo, used with permission.**

This year, which marks the Historical Office's sixth time attending, the historians instituted a micro-history program called "Five for the Fort." The public's eagerness to share their memories of Fort Monmouth at past events inspired this.

Norma Jean Garrton, CECOM LCMC's newest staff historian, conducted the five-minute interviews with members of the public about their memories of Fort Monmouth.

Robert J. Clark, currently of Roosevelt, NJ, had fond recollections of Fort Monmouth. Clark was originally from Illinois, where he participated in ROTC at the University of Illinois. He was stationed at Fort Monmouth from September 1970 to March 1972. He became the commanding officer of the Military Police (MP) company here in 1971.

"I remember that it was a very good post for someone to be in the military police, because it was quieter than" many other posts, Clark recalled.

Because "over half the population of Fort Monmouth was civilians... and it was also the place for the Advanced Signal School," the MPs "did not have to deal with people who were drafted" who often had "discipline problems" here on post.

Clark said, "I found that it was a very good place to be. I met my wife at the Officers Club. And wound up staying [in New Jersey] the rest of my life."

This Archives and History Day provided another great opportunity to show the general public how Fort Monmouth's history relates to the history of the communities it borders.

# Faculty and Alumni Publications

## Martin Clemis ('07)

Currently in Temple University's doctoral program. Army History: The Professional Bulletin of Army History is going to publish the paper he presented at the 2009 Conference of Army Historians this summer. Martin's paper was titled "*The 'Cultural Turn' in U.S. Counterinsurgency Operations: Doctrine, Application, and Criticism.*" This is his second scholarly article to see print, and he has not even taken his preliminary exams as yet.

## Melissa Ziobro, '07

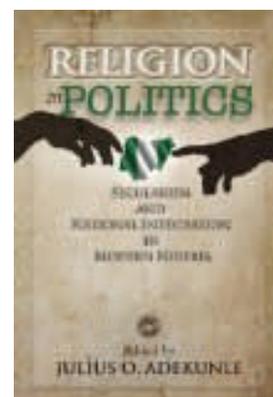
Melissa was presented with a Liberty Bell Award for Excellence in Journalism (28 Oct 2009).

## Sean McHugh ('09)

The Journal of Middle Atlantic Archaeology published Sean's piece, "*Charles Rau and the Keyport Shell Heap: Understanding New Jersey's First Archaeological Excavation in its Historic Context*" (2009 [25] 15-24). Congratulations are not only due to Sean, but Dr. Richard Veit as chief advisor on an excellent thesis. Sean is currently working with Professor Richard Veit, in conjunction with Hunter Research and Washington College, to reanalyze artifacts from a Revolutionary War Cantonment in Pluckman, NJ.

## Julius O. Adekunle Professor of History Africa, Caribbean, World

Professor Adekunle teaches undergraduate and graduate courses on the history, religions, and cultures of Africa and the Caribbean. He recently published *Culture and Customs of Rwanda* (Greenwood Press: 2007). He also recently presented a paper on Nigerian politics and religions at the annual meeting of the International Association for the History of Religions, held in Tokyo, Japan.



## It is never too early to think about your Spring or Summer 2010 Internships!

Fort Monmouth's 90-plus year history provides interns the chance to preserve the past and practice history, right here in Monmouth County! The U.S. Army CE-COM Life Cycle Management Command

History Office at Fort Monmouth is willing to take motivated, responsible students in the spring, summer, or fall semesters.

Hands on archival work will include but is not limited to scanning

archival documents, which creates an invaluable research tool in addition to preserving the aging documents; cataloging archival material, proper steps to accession new materials, and transcribing oral history interviews.

This is a particularly exciting time in our office as, in addition to our regular duties, we prepare memorialization actions and history exhibits for a new campus at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

# Alumni Profile

## A Bonaparte Thesis and Travels from Paris to Waterloo

By Suzanne Moore

Last time I wrote for *The Sextant*, I left the readers with a message to make this summer “historically yours.” I want to share with you the extraordinary history I saw as well as some details from my completed thesis. I do hope when this issue comes out, I can read about yours as well.

As I have written about previously, my thesis is on Joseph Bonaparte – more specifically, his relationship with the United States regarding the people and the government. The two began this relationship back in 1800-1801 during the negotiations to end the Quasi-War and make possible the Louisiana Purchase. Joseph lived in New Jersey, and therefore, my summer began as a volunteer on the continuation of the excavation at his Point Breeze through the Monmouth University Archaeological Field School (a summer class I recommend highly).

While doing so, I continued to research and write about Joseph and the US, seeing that he had accommodations made for him, but he also helped the people in the area. He made the most of his time here, from 1815-1840, but only his beloved Europe and his wife could win his heart. He returned to Europe, and he died in 1840 from complications of

a stroke. He was buried in Florence only to be exhumed and entombed in Paris at Les Invalides.

I also decided to take a vacation this summer, and I wanted to visit my friend in Gent, Belgium. In late July, I traveled over, and we enjoyed traveling through a little of Western Europe – mainly staying in Belgium, the Netherlands, France, and England. I paid my respects to the late English monarchs in Westminster Abbey, visited Anne Frank’s huis in Amsterdam, saw the last post ceremony held every night in Ieper (Flanders Fields battle, Belgium) to honor those lost in World War I, and tried to get last minute questions answered by Joseph Bonaparte in Paris. I saw so much history that I call Europe an historian’s playground. I purchased many books, at least one from each historical place I visited. I strongly recommend any historian, European or otherwise, to travel the world. In this case, I had the opportunity to visit more of my thesis. As mentioned, I had worked on the excavation at Joseph’s American home, but when in Europe, I saw his tomb and the reason why the entire family scattered – Waterloo. Waterloo is a small town south of Brussels, and nowadays, one can drive on the main road and not know that one is driving on



a major battlefield. It’s very easy to drive right past the Duke of Wellington or Napoleon’s headquarters. However, if one notices the Butte du Lion, one can climb 226 steps to the top of the hill and get the full panoramic view of the battlefield. In these places, I learned about the specifics of the battle and learned to understand why Napoleon lost. This was truly the beginning of the end of the Bonapartes, and it is the reason why Joseph came to America. Interestingly enough, the battle, although classified as a major defeat for Napoleon, was almost a major victory for Napoleon. If he won it, perhaps today I wouldn’t have had that thesis topic to write about! Upon coming home, I defended my thesis to my readers and a small audience, and I earned my degree. I’m still very interested in Joseph, and with the newfound information on Waterloo and Napoleon, I am researching further into that part of history. It was a very rewarding summer.

## Upcoming Conferences & Call for Papers . . .

I am very excited to introduce this new section of our newsletter. Here you will be able to find a list of upcoming conferences and calls for papers. Why is this important? Attending conferences serve a number of functions that are beneficial to graduate students. Students gain exposure to other members in the field. These are excellent opportunities to hear what other graduate students and professors are discussing and the works that they are preparing. In addition, conferences provide a forum for students to present their own papers and receive feedback from the top professionals in our field.

### Conferences . . .

- AHA, American Historical Association - San Diego, CA - Jan 7-10, 2010
- OAH, Organization of American Historian's Annual Conference - April 7-10, 2010  
Washington, D.C. - Theme: "American Culture, American Design"
- Berkshire Conference of Women Historians - June 4-6, 2010.  
"Little Berks" Spring at Mt. Holyoke College in South Hadley, MA
- SHAFR, Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations - June 24-26 2010  
Annual meeting at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison.
- WHA, World History Association - San Diego, CA - June 24-27, 2010  
Themes: Gender in World History and The Pacific in World History
- Berkshire Conference of Women Historians - June 9-12, 2011.  
"Big Berks" at University of Massachusetts at Amherst

*Attending conferences is  
a great way to gain  
exposure to other  
members in the field.*

### Call for Papers . . .

- 2010 WHA, World History Association - San Diego, CA  
"Gender in World History" & "The Pacific in World History"
- MHR, Madison Historical Review. Online peer reviewed journal.  
James Madison University history department .  
Public, World, European & American History.
- 2011 AHA, American Historical Association - Boston, MA  
Theme: "History, Society, and the Sacred"
- 2011 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women - Amherst, MA  
Theme: "Generations: Exploring Race, Sexuality, and Labor  
across Time and Space"

### Deadline for Proposals

- January 15, 2010
- February 1, 2010
- February 15, 2010
- March 1, 2010

## Don't forget about us . . .

The History and Anthropology Department would love to hear from our former and current history students. If you have something worth sharing with the department contact us and it could be in the next issue of *The Sextant*.

s0602255@monmouth.edu



# *Box Scores*

**Congratulations  
to the following students  
for their great accomplishments!**

## **Defended Theses . . .**

**Nikki DeSanctis**, "Life's a Pitch and Then You Buy: The Historical Significance of the Morris-Popeil Clan on the Age of the Infomercial and American Consumerism."

**Andrew Liss**, "Rivers, Canals, and Swamps: Waterscapes and Environmental Change in 19th Century NJ."

**Kristi Rose**, "Health and Mortality in Colonial New Jersey."

## **Completed Comprehensive Exams . . .**

**Rob Marchie and Phil Thomas**

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## *The Sextant*

*Where Historians Look Forward*

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### **Newsletter Credits**

Advisor

Dr. Christopher DeRosa

Editor-in-Chief

Jessica Solano

Contributing Writers

Molly McDonald, Suzanne Moore,

& Photographers

Chrissy Reilly, and Jessica Solano

**MONMOUTH  
UNIVERSITY**

where leaders look forward<sup>SM</sup>

Monmouth University

Department of Graduate History

400 Cedar Avenue

West Long Branch, NJ 07764

(732) 571-3440