

The Sextant

Volume II, Issue II

Spring 2009



A Year in Review: 2008-2009

By Suzanne Moore

The flowers are blooming, and the trees are leaving. A bunny grazes with its parents in my backyard. Robins are picking for worms after an April shower. This could mean only one thing – spring is upon us. It is just a matter of brief time until we are in full summer swing: enjoying the beach, riding rollercoasters, reading for a summer course, excavating an historical site, and listening to the rumble of a passing thunderstorm. For a moment, let us take a moment to reflect on the accomplishments we have made this year.

Dr. DeRosa wished for me to include several achievements of a few of our colleagues in the program. Please join in celebration of these achievements, and remember, if you have a similar experience during the summer, share it with the new *Sextant* editor next semester. For the 2008-2009 school year:

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“It’s been an eventful year in the program. We’ve been excited to welcome **Dr. Maryanne Rhett** to the fold. Her addition makes our ‘world’ track one



Spring is here. Time to reflect on the year and celebrate accomplishments throughout the department.

of the few at the M.A.-level to boast a scholar in the actual field of world history. We have five students defending theses this May, including **Chrissie Tate Reilly** and **Sean McHugh**, who have presented well-received papers on their research at conferences. Chrissie has also published an article, “Progression of Japanese Foodways” in the *Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences* (Vol. 3, No. 4 [2008]). Sean won Graduate Student Prize for Best Paper at the 2009 Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference. **Erika Crisci** and **Andrew Liss** presented papers at Monmouth’s 2008 Conference on Race, and **Judie Edlin** worked on an archaeological site in Israel that was featured on television’s *Nova*.

“Our alumni in the field have had a terrific year as well. **Yvette Florio Lane** (M.A. ’06), now of Rutgers’s doctoral program in history, passed her comprehensive exams and is embarked on dissertation research in archives in Britain. **Martin Clemis** (M.A. ’07), now of Temple University’s doctoral program, is getting set to take his exams (and to get married as well!). his article, “Crafting Non-Kinetic Warfare: The Academic-Military Nexus in U.S. Counterinsurgency Doctrine” is forthcoming in the journal *Small Wars and Insurgencies*. **Ken Foulks** (M.A. ’07), now of the Army’s Center for Military History, presented his paper ‘Official Military History with NATO: An Examination of Purposes, Techniques, and Accessibility of Official Military Records Collected During the Global War on Terror’ at the 2009 Society of Military History Conference (he was also promoted to Lt. Colonel). **Melissa Ziobro** (M.A. ’07) earned admission in Temple University’s doctoral program and published her essay, ‘This Manifest Indignity: Hollywood’s Portrayal of the Gender Integration of the Armed Forces in the World War II Era’ in Jonathan C. Friedman (ed), *Performing Difference: Representations of ‘The Other’ in Film and Theatre* (2008).

Nicholas Pellegrino (M.A. ’08) earned admission to doctoral programs at Claremont, University of Nevada -Las Vegas, and Fordham University.”

More accolades are featured in this issue. We have some celebratory news with a few of the professors on page 2 and on the last page, we can find the Box Scores of all theses, comprehensive exams, and Phi Alpha Theta inductees known to date. And importantly... Congratulations Graduates!

Then, there are the courses completed, papers written, and presentations given. All of these deserve a job well done for the hard work everyone put in this year. It has been a great year.

Now it’s time to relax after a great year. Some are going to embark on more coursework during the summer while others are working in the field. Best of luck to all! Make this summer historically yours and continue your study of history.

Come back refreshed in the fall and ready to share your summer

memories with the department, particularly with *The Sextant*. The department looks forward to seeing you again in the fall. Take care everyone! Have a fun and healthy summer!

“Make this summer historically yours.”

Black Women Academics in the Ivory Tower Research & Praxis

By Erica P. Crisci

On March 5 & 6 Rutgers University's Douglass Campus hosted the "*Black Women Academics in the Ivory Tower Research & Praxis*". The purpose of this conference was both to celebrate the achievements that Black Women have made in academics and at the same time illustrate some of the challenges that a Black Women will face should she decide to enter the academic field.

The women that participated in the conference came from all over the country and represented academic fields that included history, psychology, sociology, art, political science, and engineering. The conference even included one of MU's own female academics, Dr. Francis Trotman, Chairwoman of the Department of Psychological Counseling. With such a wide array of fields of study it would appear on the surface that these women would not have many things in common other than race, gender and choosing the aca-

"Listening to the stories of female academics that had come before me was quite beneficial..."

ademic field as their profession. However the truth was that these women did have a lot in common. In listening to the stories that were told about the challenges and dilemmas that each one of these women faced by choosing to go the academic field as their profession it was clear that regardless of their field of study the same problems and dilemma still existed. The most important piece of information that was given was to form an academic network earlier on in your career as it will prove quite beneficial later on when it is time to write a book or obtain a teaching position. The most dilemma was dis-

cussed was the challenge of balancing it all research and teaching, with the everyday responsibilities home. For a first a year graduate student like myself hearing that these very successful women struggle with some of the same issues I encounter on a daily basis, allowed me to let out a huge sigh of relief!

Listening to the stories of female academics that had come before me was quite beneficial as it allowed

me to realize that the chaos of life doesn't end when the diploma is received as many of think. Instead the truth is that after graduate school we trade one set of chaos for another. This was something I didn't realize until I heard these women talk about their experiences. The other part that I learned was as an academic you chose the life of chaos because you have a passion for the academic field that you chose.

Congratulations!

The History/Anthropology Department enthusiastically nominated its colleague, Professor Hettie Williams, for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unsung Heroes Award. On January 22, 2009, the news rang with a warm congratulations to her for being one of the four recipients on campus.

The History/Anthropology Department also extends congratulations to Dr. Julius Adekunle as a runner-up in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unsung Heroes Award.



Left: Dr. Julius Adekunle



Right: Professor Hettie Williams

Congratulations to Professor Katherine Parkin for achieving her tenure here at Monmouth University!



~Faculty Profile~ Getting to Know Dr. Parkin

By Bill Marsch

There were few surprises in interviewing Dr. Katherine Parkin, even though our interview took place on April Fool's Day. As a matter of fact, it began as a celebration: Dr. Parkin had just come from a University meeting announcing her tenure. For me it was an opportunity to get to know her better because, speaking candidly, I am one of her biggest fans.

As background, Dr. Parkin was a History and Sociology/Anthropology major at Lake Forest College in Illinois, which sharpened her educational concentration on women's studies. It was simply an extension of her interest in studying people. Her PhD was at Temple University with her dissertation involving food advertising. She met her future husband, Dr. Chris DeRosa, at Temple, which eventually offered MU's History Department a formidable team.

Dr. Parkin is a student-sensitive teacher and a strong proponent of women's studies. She is enthusiastic, filled with energy and bound-up with encouragement. Without hesita-



"Without hesitation she underscored her teaching philosophy as encouraging the 'critical thinking of students about the world.'"

tion she underscored her teaching philosophy as encouraging the "critical thinking of students about the world." She is determined to push students through

discussion and study to understand the past so they have the resources necessary to impact and benefit the future. She loves to teach. Ask any of her undergraduate or graduate students and they will tell you she does it well. Not surprisingly, an Eleanor Roosevelt quote is one of her favorites: "You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You

must do the thing which you think you cannot do."

At one point during the interview I found myself talking about me. Not surprisingly, it was indicative of her talents in pulling people out, having them become a player rather than an observer, an insider rather than staying outside. I expressed surprise at the title of her recent article in the *Monmouth University Magazine*, "Depressing History," in which she talked about the status of women in today's society. It did not sound like her; too pessimistic. I was relieved: it was the editor's title, not hers.

She could not be "up" all the time, could she? I asked how she let off steam. Primarily reading with her daughters was the answer, which was understandable in putting into perspective the sensitivities and challenges of parenthood and those of a full time teaching position. Yes, she and Dr. DeRosa "take work home" and talk often about history. As a matter of fact, "I would like to write an article or book with my husband. It would be fun to do a smaller project on baseball and advertising, and perhaps a larger project, like religion and American identity."

I believe that the books we read and like tell a lot about us. For Dr. Parkin, there was no specific author, but some of the non-academic books she recently read, and "made a huge impression on me," included Jon Krakauer's *Under the Banner of Heaven*, Erik Larson's *Devil in the White City*, Jeffrey Eugenides' *Middlesex*, Edward Ball's *Slaves in the Family* and Timothy Egan's *The Worst Hard Time*. She greatly admires women's historians including Linda Kerber, Nancy Cott and Drew Gilpin Faust. Academic books she included as her favorites were Doris Kearns Goodwin's *No Ordinary Time*, George Chauncey's *Gay New York*, and Martha Hodes' *White Women, Black Men*. Not surprisingly, of course, she also included Christopher DeRosa's *Political Indoctrination in the US Army from WW II to the Vietnam War*. (Suggestion: It's a great list for your next visit to Barnes & Noble.)

She views her position at Monmouth as an extension of family. She is a big MU booster. As to teaching today, "standards are changing as well as rising and we continually need to raise the bar." As a big Dr. Parkin booster, she does it very well.

~Current Student~

Suzanne Moore Continues Monmouth's Success with the Lipper Internship

By Anthony DeLicio

The success that Monmouth graduate students have had in the Lipper Internship program led to my sit down with Monmouth's own, Suzanne Moore. The Lipper Internship is a semester long program offered at the Museum of Jewish Heritage: A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in downtown Manhattan.

Moore interned there in the Spring of 2008 after hearing a presentation about the program from another Monmouth graduate student, and Lipper Intern, Rick Pachman. She recalled how her rewarding experience began with a ten day training period during which she learned about Jewish culture and the history of the Holocaust. After this period, each intern, fifteen in total, worked with three different schools. The interns conducted a pre-

visit introduction about the Holocaust, a tour of the museum, and lead a post visit discussion where the students reflected on the tour and the lessons they learned.

"Working with history and being able to teach; seeing kids learn... seeing the little light bulb go on" is how Moore described some of the rewards that came from working in the Lipper internship program.

From her experience, Moore believes that this internship "would be a good opportunity for a graduate student to consider." The benefits of working in New York abound and the

"[The Lipper Internship] would be a good opportunity for a graduate student to consider."

internship would be a valuable experience for those interested in learning museum work and teaching children an important lesson in history.

MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY

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Photos

Bobbie Harris, Monmouth University History/Anthropology Department, Suzanne Moore

Spring 2009 Phi Alpha Theta and Comprehensive Exams will be in the next issue.

Box Scores

Fall 2008 Phi Alpha Theta Inductees:

Scott Boguchwal, John Evans, Erica Moreland, Jessica Solano

Fall 2008 Comprehensive Exam Completions:

R. David Beales*, Kathleen Blackwell*, Ramon Quinones, Kim Kamaris, Jennfier Matuza. *with Distinction

Spring 2009 Defended Theses

Sean McHugh: "Charles Rau and the Keyport Shell Heap: Understanding New Jersey's First Archaeological Excavation in its Historic Context"

Tim Petillo: "Sir Isaac Newton: A Study of the Bible, Alchemy, and Chronology, Using Symbols in Political and Historical Events."

Chrissie Reilly: "Food Fight: Eating and Identity in World War II and Occupied Japan."

Larry Wallis: "Creating the New Soul of France: Dechristianization During the French Revolution"

L. Paul White: "The Korean War: No Longer the Forgotten War, Overshadowed War Still"

David Wronko: "James Francis Byrnes"



Bobbie Harris: "The Fulbright Award was not all work as you can tell from this picture. This was a scheduled fun evening as we cruised on the Nile River somewhere between Aswan and Luxor in Egypt. We all dressed as Egyptians and my new Nubian friend is teaching me to dance. I am the one on the right."

~Alumni Profile~

An Interview with Bobbie Harris: On the Other Side of the Table

By Jessica Solano

With the end of the semester approaching and deadlines looming it is inevitable that many, if not all, the graduate students in our History and Anthropology department are beginning to feel the crunch and perhaps even that twinge of self-doubt that we have trained ourselves to ignore. That part of ourselves that says, "What am I doing here?" or "Why am I doing this to myself"? If you are smiling right now, yes, you know what I mean. The good news is that we will in fact survive and to give testimony to this is one of our department's finest representatives.

Recently, I had the great pleasure of chatting with Monmouth Alumnus Bobbie Harris who survived our rigorous program, and she could not have enough nice things to say about the department, the faculty, and all the wonderful benefits she reaped as a direct result of their teaching and advice. She completed her M.A. in 2001 as a part-time student with a concentration in American History. She is currently teaching full time for her fourth year at Hillsborough Community College/ Ybor City Campus in Tampa, Florida. Bobbie teaches European and American History and was recently granted tenure as a member of the History Fac-

ulty. As we spoke about her teaching it quickly became clear that she loves what she is doing and truly treasures the relationships that she cultivates with her students. When I asked her what her favorite aspects of her career are she did not hesitate; first came her students, and the second reward was being in an environment that enabled her to continually grow and learn. Bobbie has always loved being in the classroom, and as she described it "really loves being on the other side of the table!"

Talking about this naturally led to the relationships she formed with her professors at Monmouth and the many valuable things, both great and small, that she learned from them and now passes on to her own students. Bobbie talked about some of the courses she took and the things she took away from them. She cheerfully spoke of the French Revolution course and credits Professor Fred McKittrick for giving her the unwavering ability to do footnotes in her sleep! She also talked about the many positive ways that all her professors pushed her to do things that she says she did not know she was capable of and, in her own words, "to do just a little bit more."

Bobbie applied this strong work ethic and in 2007 was awarded a Fulbright Hayes Summer Seminar Fellow-

ship to study for six weeks in Egypt and Israel. She described both the application process and the experience at times to be tough and grueling, but undeniably rewarding as well. Bobbie said the Fellowship was "such an honor and the experience was awesome!" In addition, she is only the second person at Hillsborough County College to earn this prestigious award.

If I had to describe the time I spent talking with Bobbie three words immediately come to mind; fun, incredible, and inspiring! She is a fantastic woman who despite her humble nature seems to be an unstoppable force that represents Monmouth University extremely well and I feel fortunate for having the opportunity to get to know her better. Her next journey will begin this Fall at the University of South Florida in Tampa where she will pursue a Ph.D. in Philosophy and Religious Studies. I am certain she will continue to excel and look forward to hearing more from her in the future. Best of luck Bobbie!