Spring Break in Eastern Europe: Understanding Citizenship, Racism, and Social Justice

By Tedi Pascarella, BA History, ’17, and Nick VanDaley, BA Sociology and Anthropology, ’16

Dr. Heidi Bludau and Dr. Nancy Mezey (Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences) gave fifteen students an extraordinary opportunity during Spring 2016: a trip to three Eastern European countries to study communism and post-communism in the classroom as well as up close and personal through the International Service Seminar. The trip was exceptional because we were not just tourists; we were well-engaged students interacting with our environment for a purpose. Our travels began on 11 March 2016. Our overnight flight via Frankfurt brought us to Hungary. By bus, we traveled to Poland and the Czech Republic to actually experience the readings in our texts and to witness history.

The Danube River divides Budapest, the capital of Hungary. Pest's cityscape includes the neo-Gothic parliamentary building and square, in which demonstrators during the 1956 Revolution are commemorated. Buda includes the Budapest castle and Fisherman's Bastion, as well as the residential areas on the outskirts of the city. The Jewish (Continued on page 2)
Quarter is known for its an impressive synagogue. Hungarian Jews were forced by their own government to relocate to a separate ghetto. A silver tree sculpture memorializes victims of the Holocaust. A couple other points of interest included the House of Terror Museum, which is housed in the old headquarters of the ArrowCross Nazi Party during World War II as well as the communist regime. Memento Park, which houses and protects statues of communist leaders from being destroyed, displays the impact of social realism.

Four days later, our group ventured to Poland via Slovakia. We only had two days in Krakow. However, the city was one of the favorites among the students. The main square featured an Easter flower market and impressive Baroque cathedral. We visited Schindler’s factory after stopping for a traditional Polish lunch. The Jewish history of Krakow is very rich, similar to that of Budapest and is also where Schindler’s List was filmed. A Holocaust memorial replaces the Krakow Ghetto. Large sculptural chairs stand as a reminder. At night, Krakow’s main square is illuminated with activity and entertainment, including live music.

Heading into Prague, the group was emotionally taxed as we had started our day at Auschwitz-Birkenau. Our first day in Prague turned out to be a beautiful one. Our tour began in the courtyard of Prague Castle. We strolled though the Golden Lane and felt utter astonishment in the presence of the magnificent Saint Vitus Cathedral. We also ventured through the Jewish Quarter of Prague. On our second morning in Prague, we met around and discussed the Monument for the Victims of Communism. It was here that our reflections on communism and social justice came full circle.

Our tour ended in Prague. We managed to travel through four countries, reflect on themes of communism, socialism, and post-socialism, and witness Auschwitz-Birkenau. We also managed to make friends, see sights, and experience different cultures, by indulging in food, music, and interacting with the numerous kinds of architectural designs. It became clear to many of us that on our plane ride home, we were just a bit different than when we set off for Europe, and we all thought of ourselves better equipped to make our own individual contributions to the world.
Spring 2016 Snapshots

While studying facial reconstruction, Dr. DelPrete’s Forensic Anthropology class used information on tissue thickness to recreate a face. Here are the results.

Megan Kleesculte poses with Drs. DeRosa and Veit after receiving the School of Humanities and Social Sciences Dean’s Award of Excellence at our Senior Seminar Conference on April 18, 2016.

Megan Kleesculte presents Dr. DeRosa with a Tennessee shirt—she’s off to study there in the Fall. Congrats, Megan!
Above: Professor Ziobro, Dr. Veit, and Dr. Greason pause for a photo following their 4/14 remarks at the faculty lecture series panel titled, “Woodrow Wilson: Legacy, Memory and Achievement.”

Above: Joey Diaz poses with Mark Nonestied, Division Head-Historic Sites & History Services, Middlesex County Office of Culture and Heritage. Mark supervised Joey’s internship at the East Brunswick Museum. Joey spent the semester researching artifacts and writing descriptive text for use on the museum’s website, in future exhibits, etc. The museum is located at 16 Maple Street in East Brunswick.

Left: Dr. Veit’s Ancient Technology class fires pots on the Great Lawn. Thanks to LeighAnne Woolley for the photo!
Spring 2016 Snapshots

On 4/2, over 13 MU students and Archaeological Society of NJ volunteers came out to help Graduate student Eric Lauenstein dig some units at Allaire State Park. This work will form the basis for Eric’s thesis.

Sara Riggi interned at The InfoAge Science History Learning Center and Museum this Spring. She is seen here with InfoAge founder Fred Carl and former MU professor Susan Douglass, who now volunteers at the historic site. Sara has been researching early night vision technology for an upcoming exhibit, and coordinating programming for both students and adult learners.

Megan Kleeschulte explains her poster at the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in Washington DC in January. This was Megan’s first conference appearance. Also appearing at the conference were alumni Jamie Ancheta, Michael Gall, Lauren Lembo, and Geri Knight-Iske.

Drs. Veit and Bludau pose with their good friend Shadow while representing the Department at one of the University’s “Mondays at Monmouth” events for accepted students.
New Undergraduate Minor in Race and Ethnic Studies

By Professor Brooke Nappi

The Department of History and Anthropology is proud to announce a new minor in race and ethnic studies (RE). Race and ethnic studies focuses on the critical study of race, ethnicity, and indigeneity with an emphasis on the perspectives of people of color. The Monmouth University minor program in race and ethnic studies is a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary program that will afford students with the opportunity to take courses in disciplines such as history, anthropology, geography, sociology, and media studies that focus on a diverse population groups. The minor includes a total of fifteen credits. Six of these fifteen are required courses. Required courses for the minor include: SO 252 Race and Ethnicity or AN380 American Diversity, and HS 349 Slavery in the Atlantic World.

Monmouth University students who minor in race and ethnic studies will analyze race and racism as powerful social, cultural, and political forces and how they intersect with other systems of classification such as gender, class, and sexuality, etc. Additionally, students will have the opportunity to develop as global citizens through opportunities within and outside of the classroom.

This new minor in race and ethnic studies will enrich the lives of both faculty and students at Monmouth. It will provide Monmouth University students the opportunity to gain a more in-depth understanding of the history of race in U.S. society and in the world; to secure cultural competency through the study of various ethnic groups well beyond six cultural diversity credits. Faculty will join together in this interdisciplinary initiative to ensure Monmouth University’s place in the twenty-first century as a distinct regional center of higher education.

The race and ethnic studies minor is particularly beneficial to students majoring in the field of education due to the fact that the United States is the most ethnically diverse society in the world and the American classroom has become increasingly multicultural. In fact, U.S. society will be roughly 46% white by or before the year 2040 according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Mon. Co. Historical Association Exhibit

Our Spring 2016 Visiting Exhibit on the third floor of Howard Hall came to us courtesy of the Monmouth County Historical Association. Installed by Curator of Museum Collections Joseph W. Hammond, the display featured pottery excavated by Robert J. Sim at important pottery sites in New Jersey.

Conducted mostly between 1940 and his death in 1955, Sim’s work still forms an important foundation for our understanding today of the early potteries of the Garden State, produced in the 18th and early 19th centuries. The Monmouth County Historical Association collections contain an extensive selection of Sim’s shards recovered from several pottery locations, plus much of his correspondence, article drafts, and other related papers.

Mr. Hammond also lectured on the collection here on campus in February. We appreciate the continued support of our friends at MCHA.
Musings from the Field:
Authenticity and Public History

By Jenna Tshudy, MA History, ‘16

As classes finish and summer begins, the thought of trips and vacations begin to flood the minds of students, teachers, and their families. While some may opt to relax on a beach or visit an amusement park, many trek to historic cities to explore heritage sites and museums. For many tourists, these sites serve as a unique way to learn and dive deeper into the history of the city they are visiting. Heritage sites and museums see millions of visitors every year, which grants them enormous power in shaping the historical knowledge of the general population. With this enormous power, comes the responsibility to tell an authentic and complete historical narrative and, for many sites, this is not being achieved.

In the History of Tourism class that I took with Dr. Schmelzkopf in the Fall of 2014, we read an article by historian Wilton Corkern titled “Heritage Tourism: Where Public and History Don’t Always Meet,” published in American Studies International in 2004. In this thought-provoking article, Corkern examines the difficult role of heritage sites in educating the general public and, in some cases, the inadequacy of these sites in presenting authentic and complete pictures of history. He claims that heritage tourism sites throughout the United States are often missing “the improbability, the surprise, the controversy – in short the human dimension – of history.” He blames this on a number of factors: the disconnect between academic historians and the general public, the tendency for public history to be looked down upon within historical academia, and the preference of heritage site organizations and agencies to give the public a predictable and safe story that fails to challenge preconceived notions. While Corkern’s article may seem disconcerting, in essence it serves as a challenge to heritage sites to reevaluate their methods, and there are many sites throughout the United States that are indeed striving for authenticity and truth and are working hard to achieve that goal.

The inspiration for this article stemmed from my recent professional experience in the work force. I work for a non-profit organization that operates several sites and provides historical interpretation and programming in the historic district of Philadelphia. One of the sites we operate is the Betsy Ross House, the alleged residence of the famous flag maker. The Betsy Ross House itself already tells a story that is not typical of traditional American history in that it presents the life and efforts of an 18th-century, middle-class, working woman. In Philadelphia, Betsy Ross, a woman, is ranked among George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson, all men, as a symbol of the patriotism of the American Revolution. In a nation that places its Founding Fathers on a pedestal of honor and glory, there is something fascinating and empowering about a woman being included in that group. Contrary to the traditional depiction of a rosy-cheeked old woman, the Betsy Ross that visitors meet while visiting the house is a strong, rebellious, and hard-working revolutionary who owned her own business, operated her own household, and vigorously supported the War for Independence.

However, the story of authenticity and empowerment does not end there. Recently, the Betsy Ross House has decided to tell another story to its visitors and add more components to what Corkern would call this “human dimension of history.” Through a new permanent exhibit titled “Women at Work in Revolutionary America,” the Betsy Ross House highlights the strenuous chores associated with running a household in the 18th century – cooking, cleaning, laundering – tasks that required hours of hard labor every day and were mostly done by women. For Betsy, who also ran her own upholstery business, it is likely she hired someone to do some of her household tasks, which leads to one of the features of the new exhibit – telling the story of Phillis, a black washerwoman. Phillis was born into slavery in Philadelphia and worked for a man named John Jones. When Jones died in 1761, his will stated that his slaves were to be freed and that Phillis was to be educated and work as a domestic servant. While little is known about Phillis’s life, including whether she actually worked for Betsy Ross, it is believed that she remained in Philadelphia after she was given her freedom. Despite these unknown elements, Phillis’s story represents a wider narrative of a population that largely goes unacknowledged at many heritage sites. By bringing light to her story, the Betsy Ross House is sharing an important element in Philadelphia’s history, and doing so in a way that allows visitors to make a connection.

Another element of Corkern’s article criticized the way information is presented to the public at many heritage sites, which typically consists of academic texts that are written in the style of a scholar, instead of a style that would be engaging or entertaining for a visitor on their vacation. At the Betsy Ross House, Phillis’s story is told primarily through an historical interpreter

(Continued on page 8)
who greets guests as they walk through the house and shares with them her stories of enslavement and freedom. Visitors are given the opportunity to interact with Phillis and ask her questions about her experiences, and Phillis responds with answers that do not shy away from the truth. She speaks of her life in slavery, the day she was granted her freedom, and the opportunities it provided for her, all while acknowledging that her experience is unique – most of the black population in Philadelphia was still enslaved at this time. When guests ask her about slavery, Phillis simply responds that it is never too late to right a wrong.

At the Betsy Ross House, there is no doubt that the depiction of Betsy as an old woman calmly sewing the first American flag could have been preserved and sustained over the years to perpetuate her comfortable place in American memory. But instead, a choice was made to tell stories that would otherwise remain untold. Visitors to the house today learn about working-class women, both white and black, and the tasks they accomplished, whether it was the treasonous act of supporting the American Revolution or running a household, both of which were impressive and important, not only in the 18th century, but in modern society as well.

Corkern states in his final comments of his article, “Visitors seek authenticity. Too often they have to settle for comfort.” As we enter the summer months and travel to heritage sites with family and with friends, I urge you to think about the stories that are being presented to you and ask yourself – Am I seeing the complete historical picture? What is missing? Seek the authenticity, even if it is hard to find at first, and refuse to settle for comfort.

**Conference Newbie Shares Her Thoughts**

By Jennifer McCue, MA History, ‘17

My time as a graduate student in the Department of History and Anthropology here at Monmouth University has been an interesting and enlightening one, punctuated by several personal academic accomplishments, and many “firsts.” One such experience occurred this past March, when I presented a paper at my first academic conference, the Graduate Studies Conference at Northeastern University, in Boston.

Among my favorite things about our Department, the willingness of every faculty member I’ve encountered to act as a mentor and/or navigational guide through the sometimes-confusing hallways of academia would be foremost. With this in mind, I’ve been lucky to find some really wonderful mentors in the Department, all of whom have urged me to find a conference and get my first presentation completed, so I might get comfortable doing so. At Dr. Rhett’s suggestion, I submitted a proposal for this particular conference, based on a paper I wrote for Dr. Schmelzkopf’s History of Tourism class. The paper looked at the phenomenon of “dark tourism,” the experience of touring sites of death, disaster, and destruction, in the context of Belfast, Northern Ireland and the sectarian wars known as the Troubles. The proposal was accepted, and along came a wave of excitement mixed with anxiety – public speaking has not been my forte.

As the conference was being held over Easter weekend, my husband and two young children traveled with me to Boston, and although I knew Dr. Rhett would be in attendance, I knew one other attendee, as well – a recent graduate of our program. This all served to tamp down some of the anxiety, and upon checking into the conference the first morning and sitting through the early sessions, it was readily apparent that I was not the only participant presenting for the first time, a fact which also served to set me at ease. When it was my turn to present, after an initial fumble or two, I was able to relax enough to speak coherently, and by all accounts, I did fine – the interest demonstrated by those who heard me speak was a much-needed boost of confidence after-the-fact.

My biggest takeaway from the experience was actually the comradery among the participants; I had expected it to be almost competitive, but I found it to be engaging and entertaining. It was also quite interesting to see the wide variety of research subjects about which other students were passionate. I am mildly looking forward to the next such experience!
Seniors Shine at Seminar

The following students presented papers at our Spring 2016 Senior Seminar Conference on Monday, April 18th, 2016:


Veronica Brennan, “Women’s Sports in the Media”


Connor M. Caden, “The Battle of Chosin Reservoir”

Kathryn Calt, “The Taboo that is Co-sleeping”

Daniella Del Mauro, “How Social Relationships Impact Patients with Alzheimer’s Disease”

Gary DeSarno, “An Enlightened Perspective? How the Enlightenment Philosophes Viewed the Middle East”

Jessica Duda, “Asylums, Abnormalities, and the Journey to Equal Rights”

Sydney Engelberger, “Sit Still and Take the Test”

Kelly Fahey, “Evolution of ADHD: Looking at ADHD Differently”


Kelsey Flatley, “Multiple Sclerosis and Cultural Factors”

Emily Gill, “Technology as the New “Romance”

Samantha Gottlieb, “Urban Legends in Modern Society”

Caitlin Guenther, “Science Fiction: Boldly Going Where No Religion Has Gone Before”

Eric Kahana, “Hitler and His Ambitions”

Megan Kleesculte, “Blinded by the Light: Disillusioning Gentrification and Revival in Asbury Park, NJ”

Daniel Lake, “The U.S.-Israeli Relationship”

Amanda Lopes, “Social Injustice in the United States Health Care System”

Vanessa La Rocca, “Impact on Breastfeeding Rates”

Caique Nascimento, “The Great Debate: The Federalists Versus the Anti-Federalists and the Struggle to Build a Nation”

Mary Nielsen, “Leather: From Brains to Boots”

Jesse Nokes, “I Came to Save the Union: The 14th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the American Civil War”

Brianne O’Neill, “Agent Orange, the Decision Makers, and the Consequences”

Miguel A. Pena Jr., “Muhammad Ali’s Greatest Decision”

Julia Pugliese, “Stirring Up Controversy in the Gendered Kitchen”

Amanda Quinn, “A Culture Bound by ADHD?”

Sara Riggi, “Martyrs for Peace: The Vietnam Veterans Against the War”

Mark Schulze, “Netflix killed Blockbusters; Streaming saved Vinyl”

Nick Van Daley, “New Atheism: How Privilege Masquerades as Scientific Fact”

Sarah Van Heusen, “Exploring Dark Tourism”

Isabel Wagner, “Art vs. Propaganda”

Ashley Worthington, “Differential Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder”

Spring 2016 Awards:

The Department presented the following awards to graduating seniors at the Senior Seminar Conference:

Megan Kleeschulte - Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar in Anthropology

Gary DeSarno - Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar in History

Christopher Brower - Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Anthropology

Michelle Sperling - Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar in History

Achau Nguyen - Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Anthropology

Nicholas Van Daley - Outstanding Undergraduate Student in Anthropology

Taylor Cavanaugh - Department of History & Anthropology Undergraduate Service Award

Jenna Tshudy - Department of History & Anthropology Graduate Service Award

Evan Mydlowski - Outstanding Graduate Scholar in Anthropology

Jenna Tshudy - Outstanding Graduate Scholar in History

Some of our seminar students pose with Professor Brooke Nappi prior to presenting.
Honor Society Inductions Held 4/8/16

Congratulations to the following inductees of our honor societies, Phi Alpha Theta (history; advised by Dr. Walter Greason) and Lambda Alpha (anthropology; advised by Professor Brooke Nappi).

**Lambda Alpha Inductees:**
Joshua Bruno  Megan Kleeschulte
Taylor Cavanaugh  Kayla Kraft
Chelsea Cordie  Lauren Menduke
Kathleen Deck  Courtney Mottola
Daniella Del Mauro  Lauren Palladino
Julie Green  Julia Pugliese
Caitlin Guenther  Molly Schaller
Alison Hart  Jonathan Seclow
Brittany Hoops  Kimberly Valdez
Katlyn Zimmerman

**Phi Alpha Theta Inductees:**
Michael Achimov  Jamie Kotsines
Michelle Bacchetta  Jessica Kuck
Ellen Brennan  Daniel Lake
Laura Bukoskey  Jessica Lavitol
Connor Caden  Kaylie Mazza
Emily Christiansen  Tyese Medford
Liam Coffey  Russell Novak
Casey Hanna  Taryn O’Mara
Danielle Hardy  Brianne O’Neill
Jenna Herman  Kristin Pasternak
Melissa Hubbard  Marc Sweet
Molly Huber  Isabel Wagner
Meaghan Wheeler

New members raise their hands as they are inducted into the societies.

Dr. Richard Veit, Professor Brooke Nappi, Dean Kenneth Womack, and Dr. Walter Greason pause for a photo after Dean Womack’s keynote address about the Beatles.

New members raise their hands as they are inducted into the societies.
MA Theses Defended
Congratulations to the following students who defended their theses this semester:

Adam Black, "Warfare’s Psychological Albatross: Tracing the Treatment, Societal Perception, and Evolution of Battle-Induced Mental Trauma in the United States from the Civil War to the Korean War," advised by Drs. DeRosa and Rhett

Chelsea Cordle, "Ancient Egyptian Toothaches: A Study on Dental Pathologies in New Kingdom Populations," advised by Dr. DelPrete

Evan Mydlowski, "Excavating Collections of the Past: The Importance of Revisiting Artifact Assemblages: A Case Study of the Turkey Swamp Site," advised by Drs. Heinrich and Veit

Sean Nepveu, "The Impact of the Rifled Musket in the Civil War," advised by Drs. DeRosa and Veit

Janice Wileman, "Castro’s Proxy War: Cuban Involvement in the Nicaraguan Revolution," advised by Drs. DeRosa and Rhett

Works in Progress Recap
Thanks to the following faculty members who shared their works in progress with us this semester, and to Professor Hettie Williams for organizing the seminar series! For next semester’s events, stayed tuned to: http://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/WiP-Seminar-Series.aspx

Dr. Corey Dzenko, (Department of Art and Design), "Going to ‘Real’ America: Nikki S. Lee’s The Ohio Project (1999)," 1/27/16

Professor Melissa Ziobro, "Mining for Memories: Oral History and Historic Site Interpretation at Battery Lewis," 2/24/16

Dr. Katherine Parkin, “‘The Angels Called Them’: Infant Loss and Commemoration in Early Twentieth-Century Indiana,” 3/23/16

Dr. Fred McKitrick, "Teaching Experience in China,” 4/20/16

The Department of History and Anthropology’s Spring 2016 award for outstanding paper in a General Education History course went to Kristiana Price, seen here with her award. She wrote the award-winning essay, on Erik Larson’s Dead Wake, for Professor Dorment’s class.
MU Goes to the MAAC

By Taylor Cavanaugh, BA History and Anthropology, ‘16

Students interested in pursuing education and careers in archaeology joined Dr. Richard Veit and Professor Sean McHugh Thursday March 10th on a trip to Ocean City, Maryland to attend the 46th annual Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC). After a four hour road trip and a night’s sleep, the Monmouth crew attended the weekend event with pride under Dr. Veit, the president of the MAAC. The conference included three tracks consisting of presentations by archaeologists including professors and students, a student committee coffee hour, a student committee round table, a well-received plenary session, a student mixer, and the closing reception. Overall, the MAAC was a student-friendly event which gave many the opportunity to share their work and learn of the future prospects archaeology has to offer.

After an early morning spent listening to presentations on prehistoric foragers, changing landscapes, and historical archaeology, attendees following track C gathered to hear papers presented by Monmouth University students on New Jersey prehistory. The session was kicked off by Dr. Veit and Dr. Lattanzi’s “Fraud! Rethinking the Incredible Vaux Collection of Adena Artifacts from Bridgeport, New Jersey.” From this, an artifact collection had been reanalyzed and proven mostly as legitimate leading to an expanded understanding of the Delaware Valley prehistory. Anthropology student Kayla Kraft then gave a noteworthy talk on prehistoric ceramics from her own experience making Lenape pottery using different tempers. Other Monmouth University presenters included Dr. Adam Heinrich, Evan Mydlowski, Andrew Martin, and Stephanie Codling, all of whom gave well-received presentations.

One of the most memorable moments from the conference was the plenary session led by Dr. Charles Ewen who gave a captivating talk on a lost colony of the sixteenth century. He explained several theories as to what happened to the Roanoke colonists, their mysterious “croatoan” carving left on a tree, and where they may have gone. The audience was eager to ask questions and were left to decide for themselves why the settlement on Roanoke Island had been abandoned.

There were many interactive aspects of the MAAC as well. One event consisted of students getting the opportunity to meet with different professionals in the archaeology world, who gave them advice and answered questions about specific directions they may go in. Students would move in small groups to tables designated for those wanting to know more about graduate school, federal archaeology, and CRM archaeology. After collecting business cards and taking as many notes as possible from their potential future administrators, students were given the opportunity to have their resumes reviewed and edited for their specific goals. A workshop was made available as well which presented the usefulness of 3D printers in archaeology, education techniques and games, as well as information tables from archaeology students. The MAAC bookstore was also a hit and included pottery, map bags, and endless books for great prices. A late night student mixer hosted by Professor McHugh allowed students to mingle with those from different schools and gain prizes including t-shirts, books, and other essentials. The Monmouth crew joined together in an epic round of miniature golf and returned home after making closer connections and were already preparing for next year’s MAAC adventure. All students are encouraged and welcome to join in on the next trip!
Faculty Authors/Editors

Department book authors and editors were honored at the Monmouth University Library Authors Reception on Wednesday, April 6. We are pleased to share that MA student Jennifer McCue was also honored that afternoon, having won one of two of the 2016 Monmouth University Library Research Awards for her paper, “Unmet Expectations: The Irish at the Paris Peace Conference.” This is the second consecutive annual win for Jennifer. Below, please find a list of Department faculty publications for 2015.


MU’s 1st NJ History Day

On 2/27, 282 local students and their teachers, families, and friends descended upon our campus to participate in NJ History Day. This nationwide program, according to Nancy-Norris Bauer, New Jersey State History Day Coordinator, “…is an exciting and comprehensive way to address many areas of the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. It also provides a unique opportunity to integrate many areas of the curriculum such as English, Science, Technology, Math, Drama, and of course, History. This program gives...students the chance to engage in primary research individually or as a group and to present their findings through papers, projects, performances or media.”

In NJ, 3 regional competitions determine the finalists for the state competition. State winners then go on to the national competition. 2016 represented the first year in the competition’s 30+ year history that Monmouth University hosted (past hosts include William Patterson University, Rutgers University, and Princeton University).

The event brought many high achieving students to our campus—we hope to call many Hawks one day! It was also a great networking and team building experience as faculty, graduate students, and alumni all came together to volunteer their time as judges. Thanks to all who made it happen!
Updates on the History Graduate Program

By Dr. Maryanne Rhett

This coming fall there will be several exciting changes to the graduate program in History, and graduate programs in general across campus. For History the first major change is that we will have the ability to appoint up to four graduate assistantships in the Fall and another four in the Spring. This is doubling the number of available assistantships available in 2015-16. If you are interested in applying for a graduate assistantship you will have to do so through myMU under I Need To… -> Apply for a Graduate Assistantship. The deadline for Fall assistantships is July 31, the Spring deadline is still to be announced.

In addition to the changes to assistantships, this Fall the History Graduate program is excited to have joining its ranks Dr. Ashleigh Dean from Emory University. Dr. Dean will be offering classes on East Asian history and helping us build the global scope of our program. For the academic year 2016-2017 both Drs. McKitrick and Rhett will be on sabbatical. During Dr. Rhett’s sabbatical year, Dr. Campbell will be Acting Director of the Graduate Program in History. He will be your point person in scheduling defenses, scheduling comprehensive exams, and registering students for thesis credits.

Club Spring Recap

By Mary Nielsen, BA Anthropology, ‘17

The 2016 spring semester featured a busy schedule for the History and Anthropology club here at Monmouth University. From guest speakers to day trips, a large array of opportunities were provided for and hosted by students.

As far as annual events are concerned the History and Anthropology club hosted their atlatl toss on the Great Lawn, a student favorite. With a moderate turn out we were able to distinguish the hunters from the gatherers, with a grand total of two students piercing Bessie the bison. Additionally, students once again made the four hour trip to the Mid Atlantic Archaeology Conference in Ocean City Maryland, where graduate and undergraduate students alike presented papers in a professional setting over the course of three days. This year the club's fundraiser boasted long sleeve shirts, featuring a brand new logo by Richard Adamczyk.

The 2016 semester featured two guest speakers for the History and Anthropology club. Alumni Glenn LeBoeuf was welcomed back to present on the times Bruce Springsteen played at Monmouth. Joe Hammond, from the Monmouth County Historical Association, was also welcomed to present at Monmouth, talking about Robert J. Sim and his investigations into important New Jersey stoneware sites.

The event with the largest turn out this semester, however, was the Bannerman Castle trip, which enticed students from outside of the Department to journey to NY. The “castle” was built by Frank Bannerman to house his business, the distribution of military back stock. Today, the “castle” is in ruins. However, between the engaging tour guide and the delightful company, the trip was an overall success. See more at https://bannermancastle.org/. Thanks to Glenn LeBoeuf and Student Activities for their financial support of this trip.

It is important to note that the club is not driven by events alone. Club meetings and the official Facebook group have facilitated a solid network of students, frequently passing along internship opportunities, local dig sites that needed extra participants (such as with students assisting at the Allaire State Park site), and general events other students might find interesting.

Although the Spring semester boasted such a vast and eclectic assortment of events, next year is sure to feature new and exciting opportunities for students. While nothing is set in stone just yet, there has been discussion of attending a Renaissance Faire, a Shark River Fossil Hunt, and potentially a collaboration with West Chester University students who the club became close with at the MAAC.
News Briefs

On 2/29, Western Civ II students came together to watch the film Testament of Youth in Pollak Theatre. This WWI film is based on the memoirs of British Red Cross nurse Vera Brittain.

On 3/28, celebrated author Erik Larson spoke in Pollak Theatre. The event, organized by Dr. Ken Campbell, was free and open to the public. Mr. Larson is the author of five New York Times bestsellers, most recently Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania, which hit #1 on the Times bestseller list soon after launch.

On 4/11, Dr. Heidi Bludau organized a careers panel aimed at History and Anthro/Education majors. Alumni speakers included Katelyn Basile ’15, who teaches 3rd grade at Victor Mravlag School No.21 in Elizabeth; Kristin Fiumara ’15, who teaches 4th grade at West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District, working as a general education teacher in an inclusive classroom (co-teaching); Melissa Murphy ’12, a special education social studies teacher in both the replacement, small class, and ICR settings at Holmdel High School; Chris Stone ’08, who teaches social studies for grades 5-8 and computer technology for grades K through 8 at Seashore School (Long Branch); Kyle Banner ’97, ’10, who has been teaching middle school American History I for eighteen years- two at St Veronica School in Howell, and sixteen at Toms River Intermediate North.


On 4/20, as part of Student Scholarship Week, students from Professor Ziobro’s Fall 2015 Oral History class presented a panel titled, “Monmouth Memories Oral History.” Nicole Benis, Taylor Cavanaugh, and Jamie Griffin discussed their experiences learning and then conducting oral history for the fledgling Monmouth Memories Oral History Program. Interviews conducted under the auspices of the Program thus far have covered MU’s history from the 1960s – the present. See more at http://library.monmouth.edu/main/monmouth_memories.

On 4/22, Dr. Nica Davidov organized a min-conference on campus dubbed, “Explaining the Anthropocene (To Each Other): A Conversation across the Disciplines.” Brian Black of Penn State University delivered the keynote. Other presenters came from Brooklyn College, the American Museum of Natural History, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Barnard College, Chatham University, Lehman College, CUNY; Temple University, Rowan University, Cornell University, Rutgers University, Drew University, and the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Our own Dr. Richard Veit presented a paper titled, “Flying the Yellow Flag of Quarantine! Results of a Preliminary Archaeological Survey at the Philadelphia, Lazaretto.”

Congratulations to MA student Anthony Phillips, who was recently elected Event Organizer for the Middle Atlantic Archeological Conference Student Committee.

Call for Papers: A conference titled “EMINENT DOMAIN AND THE CITY: GOVERNMENT ACTION, PRIVATE RIGHTS, AND PUBLIC” will be held on campus on Thursday, February 9 and Friday, February 10, 2017, organized by our own Dr. Walter Greason and Dr. Karen Schmelzkopf, along with Vincenzo Mele of the University of Pisa. The goal of this conference is to critically examine the uses and consequences of eminent domain from a multi-disciplinary perspectives, to attempt to answer the question: “What are the economic, political, environmental, social, and cultural impacts of the use of eminent domain, particularly on cities trying to revitalize themselves?” Proposals are due May 31st. See more at: http://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/eminent-domain-conference.aspx.

The World Cinema Series continued this semester, hosted by Dr. Thomas Pearson. Films shown were as follows: January: Sarah Gavron’s “Brick Lane” (2007) (PG-13); Feo Aladag’s “When We Leave” (2010) (unrated). March: Philippe Falardeau’s “Monsieur Lazhar” (2011) (PG-13); April: Zaza Urushadze’s “Tangerines” (2013) (not rated). All films were free and open to the public at 7pm in Pollak Theatre.
It's hard to fit all of our good news in one semi-annual newsletter– stay tuned to our social media so you don't miss a thing!

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