

From the Coordinator....



Fifty years ago, Eastern Illinois University granted its first master's degree in history. Since then, our blossoming program has granted hundreds more. In recognition of our many alumni around the country, we are launching a yearly newsletter to keep our program graduates better informed of goings on in the program and to strengthen ties between our far-flung alumni.

Despite the unprecedented budget problems facing our state and university, I am delighted to report that our program continues to thrive in the face of adversity. We have continued to produce strong graduates well prepared for doctoral programs, secondary school teaching positions, public history jobs, and other important positions. Recently the EIU Graduate School, as part of a review of all campus graduate programs, awarded our program the designation of “First Choice Graduate Program”—the first program to be so recognized. This award has allowed us to offer additional graduate assistantships to deserving students and to launch new programs such as the Indiana State-Eastern Illinois University Graduate History Symposium.

Our Graduate Students In Action....

Three years ago, the EIU Graduate School recognized the History Department as home to a “first choice” graduate program—the first program to be so honored. The graduate school noted the History program’s particular strength in offering its students opportunities to bring their research and writing to the public. This year’s class continues to press beyond the traditional classroom. Graduate students edited and furnished some 9 articles and reviews to *Historia*, the History Department’s annual journal. Students have presented papers at regional conferences including the Illinois State Historical Conference, Asian Affairs Conference, and Society for French Historical Studies Conference. We are also delighted to report that the *Journal of Illinois State Historical Society* will publish James Derek Shilder’s article, “A Tale of Two Cities: The 1918 Influenza” (written for Dr. Lynne Curry’s seminar on America between world wars).

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Bruce David Janu Named “Distinguished Graduate



**BRUCE DAVID
JANU**

Bruce David Janu, an independent filmmaker and history teacher at John Hershey High School in the northwest suburbs of Chicago, was named the 2009-2010 “Distinguished Graduate Alumnus” for the History Department. The EIU Graduate School recognized Bruce in particular for

his award-winning documentary “Facing Sudan,” a searing expose of the Darfur crisis, featuring portraits of a number of ordinary Americans who have mobilized support for the refugees in the region. Accepting his award at a dinner for honorees, Bruce paid particular tribute to Dr. Anita Shelton. He recalled how Shelton, citing historian Arno Karlen, problematized concepts of historical causation by citing—of all things—Napoleon’s hemorrhoids!

Did the painful distraction of a case of hemorrhoids play a role in the French defeat at Waterloo? The uncomfortable proposition, Janu explained, has remained with him as a humbling reminder of the limits of our knowledge and ability to recreate the past. For a story on Bruce’s honor published in the Chicago Dailey Herald go to <http://www.dailyherald.com/story/?id=370873&src=1>

THIS I REGARD AS HISTORY'S
HIGHEST FUNCTION, TO LET NO
WORTHY ACTION BE
UNCOMMEMORATED, AND TO
HOLD OUT THE REPROBATION OF
POSTERITY AS A TERROR TO EVIL
WORDS AND DEEDS.
-TACITUS

History Becomes First of the “First Choice” Programs

After a recent review of all campus graduate program, History became the first program to be awarded the designation of “first choice,” in recognition of its strong, innovative approach to graduate education.

(Left) Anita Shelton, chair of the History Department, accepts a plaque denoting the department’s designation as the initial First Choice Graduate Program Joining Dr. Shelton are William Perry, EIU President, Robert Augustine, dean EIU Graduate Studies, and Blair Lord, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs



Let Us Know How You’re Doing....

Keep us informed of developments in your life. We would be delighted to include your news in our “class notes” section and on our alumni webpage. Also if you know the whereabouts of someone not receiving graduate update, let us know, and we’ll add them to our mailing list.

Also, you can now follow us on Facebook.



Class Notes....

- **Matthew Berry**, class of 2008, works in the Decision and Information Sciences Division at Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago. Matthew and his wife Amy welcomed their first child, Charlotte, into the world on December 30, 2009.
- **Troy Malaki** (2006) now makes his home in Austin, Texas where he works for a “big box” retailer and teaches online history courses for both Central Texas College and Southern New Hampshire University.
- **Michael Pollack**, who wrapped up his degree in 2009, teaches American History, American Government, and African American Studies at Urbana High School (up the road). He recently taught a two day professional development workshop for the Chicago School District at Mather High School, and a couple of smaller workshops at his own Urbana District 116. He also led a Teaching American History grant lesson on the local Vietnam antiwar years.
- **Amanda Standerfer** (1997) is Program Director for the Southeastern Illinois Community Foundation since November 2008. She lives in Sullivan, IL, with her husband Zak, who is a student teaching coordinator for EIU. They have three children: JJ, Wes, and Callie.
- **Bryan Wuthrich**, class of 1999, is a full-time professor of history at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville, Florida.
- **Eva Pfanzelter Sausgruber**, 1995, is a university Assistant and Project Coordinator at the Department of Contemporary History at the University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria. She has been named a 2011 Global Ambassador by the EIU Graduate School.
- **Chris Sundheim**, a 1996 graduate, now works in journalism in New York City as an editor on the national desk of the Associated Press.
- **Nick Mariner** (2007) recently completed his doctoral in Cultural Studies in Educational Foundations at the University of Tennessee. His dissertation was titled "People Who Look Like Me!: Community, Space and Power in a Segregated East Tennessee School." His research specialty was in the History of American Education. He currently teaches U.S. history courses at Pellissippi State Technical Community College.

On to Doctorates!

Over the past several years, a number of our program graduates have entered doctoral programs around the country. Christopher Bailey (Class of 2000) is working on his dissertation at Cornell University, Mary Barford (Class of 2006) is at Purdue, Patrick Harris (Class of 2007) is at Western Michigan University, and Rachel Kleinschmidt (2008) is at Iowa State. This year, four of our students began Ph.D. programs—an unprecedented achievement for us! Michael Swinford and Erin

Crawley are continuing reasonably close to home at the University of Illinois Chicago this fall. Both won prestigious History Doctoral Awards, which include a guaranteed four year teaching assistantship with \$5000 over the regular T.A. stipend. Annie Morrisette has headed east. She started this fall at the University of Maine, also with full funding. Meanwhile, Chad Cussen began his studies at Arizona State with a partial scholarship. We wish them all luck!



EIU master's students heading for doctoral programs are honored at the 2010 Phi Alpha Theta Dinner. (r-l) Ed Wehrle, Michael Swinford, Chad Cussen, Erin Crawley, and Annie Morrisette.

INDIANA STATE-EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY GRADUATE HISTORY SYMPOSIUM

SINCE 2008, FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM EIU AND NEIGHBORING INDIANA STATE HAVE GOTTEN TOGETHER FOR AN ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM. ALTERNATING BETWEEN CHARLESTON AND TERRE HAUTE EACH YEAR, THE SYMPOSIUM, IN WHICH STUDENTS FROM EACH PROGRAM GIVE PAPERS, OFFERS STUDENTS AND FACULTY FROM BOTH PROGRAMS A CHANCE TO INTERACT IN A RELAXED SEMI-FORMAL ATMOSPHERE. STUDENTS PRESENTING RESEARCH GET AN EXCELLENT PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY AND EARN A VALUABLE FEEDBACK. OUR THANKS TO THE EIU GRADUATE SCHOOL DEAN ROBERT AUGUSTINE AND ISU HISTORY CHAIR CHRISTOPHER OLSON FOR THEIR SUPPORT. THIS YEAR STUDENTS AND FACULTY FROM ILLINOIS



(l-r) Chris Kerne, Laura Mondt, and Jon Matthews prepare to deliver papers at the 2011 Loyola History Graduate Student Conference.

Meet the New Graduate Students....

- **Crystal Abbey**, originally from Wyoming Illinois, a small town outside of Peoria Illinois, recently graduated from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. She plans to study East Asia in the 20th century. She enjoys watching football and shopping.
- Chicago resident, **John Goldsworthy** earned his Bachelor of Arts in History with a Pre-law Minor at EIU. His concentration will be early U.S. history, with a focus on Modern World. He plans on going to law school upon graduation.
- **Melissa Greco** is a proud native of Evergreen Park and graduate of Elmhurst College. She plans to study early modern England. She loves anything British, and in her spare time enjoys music, reading and road trips to random places.
- **Ian Holk** is from Danville, Illinois and is the most pretentious and self-loathing student ever to grace the halls of Eastern Illinois University. He will be studying The French Revolution and the Enlightenment with Dr. Kammerling-Smith. He also loves Stolichnaya and walking barefoot through wet grass.
- **Benjamin R Joyner** is from the semi-backwoods of Southern Illinois along the Kentucky border. He intends to focus on European history with Dr. Lee Patterson. Benjamin enjoys playing RPGs and spending time with his fiancé.
- **Jon Matthews** has returned to the area after finishing his undergrad at Monmouth College. He is studying American History and when not in class or in the library will be found on the golf course or watching the Cardinals.
- **Thomas Kiely** resides in Oak Forest, IL, and is a graduate of Eastern Illinois University. He plans to focus on American History. He enjoys watching the Chicago White Sox and Miami Dolphins compete for their respected titles.
- **Laura Mondt** is from Chicago and graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She plans to concentrate on 20th century U.S. history. In her spare time, Laura enjoys swimming and collecting books.
- **Koromor Porri** grew up in Orland Park, Illinois and received a degree from North Central College in Naperville. When not studying and reading, he enjoys lifting weights and running at six in the morning.
- **Nicole Seraphita** is native to the Chicago area and hopes to obtain her master's in American History. In her free time she enjoys read, writing, and Japanese Anime.