
GRAD UPDATE



Sace Elder at Berchtesgaden, Germany in May 2015 on a Study Abroad for undergrads and grads.

Greetings from the Coordinator

The EIU MA Program in History and its faculty, students, and alumni, owe Dr. Ed Wehrle a debt of gratitude for guiding this program toward much success. Under his leadership we have been a First Choice Program of the Graduate School since 2007.

As the new Graduate Coordinator, I hope to build on Ed's tremendous successes. This year we saw (a lucky) thirteen complete the program (page 3) and our students continue to present their research in significant venues. We have also undertaken the development of an online option for K-12 teachers, which we are planning to launch in Summer 2017. We also have started a review of our program curriculum for the the traditional "face-to-face" program, a process that continues into this coming academic year.

And we have enjoyed a collaboration with Common Ground Publishing in Champaign on a project discussed elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter (page 6). Our students presented their innovative research in a variety of venues, including this year's Graduate Research Symposium, hosted here at EIU (page 2). The program continues to attract excellent students pursuing their

interests in US, world, and European history (page 5). And once they are here, they enjoy the guidance of our hard-working faculty, such as this year's Distinguished Graduate Mentor, Dr. Charlie Foy (page 2). We are particularly proud of our alumni, who take the skills they have learned here and excel in a range of professions (page 6).

Deserving of particular recognition are the members of the Graduate Committee: Dr. Charlie Foy, Prof. Brian Mann, Dr. Lee Patterson, and Dr. Nora Small. Coordinating the program is a particular pleasure with the help of such dedicated and hard-working colleagues.

As you will see in this newsletter, there is much new and exciting happening here in the MA Program in History EIU!

EIU Hosts EIU-ISU-UIS Symposium in History

On April 2, EIU welcomed graduate students from Indiana State University and University of Illinois at Springfield for the 9th Annual Graduate Research Symposium. EIU's Erin Harrington presented her paper, "The Fifth Pan-African Congress and the 'Human Rights Moment' of 1945," written for Dr. Sace Elder's HIS 5400: Problems in Human Rights History. Lanita Johnson (pictured right) presented her paper, "From Slaves to Soldiers: African Americans in the Revolutionary War," written for Dr. Charlie Foy's HIS 5370: Seminar in Early American History. Students had the opportunity to chat with each other and with professors from the visiting institutions over a lunch provided by the History Department.



EIU grad student Lanita Johnson, delivering her paper at the Grad Symposium in April.



Dr. Charlie Foy (center) and his students Michael Bradley (left) and Alyssa Peterson (right) at the 2016 Graduate School Awards Ceremony

Distinguished Mentoring

Dr. Charlie Foy (pictured left) was honored this Spring with the 2016 Rodney S. Ranes Outstanding Graduate Faculty Mentor Award. First-year graduate student Michael Bradley nominated his mentor. Even a brief perusal of this newsletter's pages will show why he received this honor: Under his guidance this year, four students completed their degrees, two are immediately heading to doctoral programs, and three presented their work in significant venues. A well deserved honor, indeed. Congratulations, Dr. Foy!

Congratulations to our recent graduates...

James Bishop, who also worked with Dr. Charlie Foy, will begin the PhD program in US history at Louisiana State University this Fall.

Colin Chadwick, who worked with Dr. Bailey Young, now begins yet another graduate program, this time for a Master's in Library and Information Science at Arizona State University.

Dan Eppel, who worked with Mark Hubbard, is considering his options for his post-Master's work. He says he especially enjoyed working for Dr. Hubbard on the Journal of Illinois History.

Alex Gillespie, who worked with Dr. Lee Patterson, now plans to begin a career in public history.

Shawn Hale, who worked with Dr. Bailey Young, defended his thesis, "Butchered Bones, Carved Stones: Hunting and Social Changes in Late Saxon England," and completed his exams with distinction.

Richard Hultz, who teaches full time at Eastern Illinois Area of Special Education. The degree was a long haul for Richard, but he reports he could not be happier with the experience.

Jennifer Huntington, who worked with Dr. Ed Wehrle, and is to be especially admired for completing the program while teaching full time at Central Grade School in Effingham, IL.

Dana Jarrard-Lameyer, who worked with Dr. Sace Elder, interned at the Indo-American Heritage Museum in Chicago and now teaches at Christian Life Schools in Rockford, Illinois

Kimberly Jones, who worked with Dr. Charlie Foy, defended her thesis, "'Favorite of Heaven': The Impact of Skin Color on Atlantic Ethnic Africans in the Eighteenth Century." She leaves EIU to pursue a doctorate at Rice University. Kim was also named one of the EIU Trio Program's Top Black Achievers for 2015.

Adam Mohebbi, who worked with Prof. Brian Mann, was awarded "Distinction" for his performance on the comprehensive examination.

Alyssa Peterson, who worked with Dr. Charlie Foy, defended her thesis, "'We live in the midst of death': Medical Theory, Public Health, and the 1793 Yellow Fever Epidemic." Alyssa will be applying to doctoral programs in medical history.

Mark Stanford, who worked with Dr. Charlie Foy, researched Mattoon's involvement in World War I, a project that has garnered considerable local interest.

Danielle Swindel, who worked with Dr. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, plans to pursue a career in community college teaching, for which she prepared herself with a special independent study with her mentor.

History Careers Day 2016



(From left) Prof. Brian Mann, Dr. Nora Pat Small, Dr. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, and Dr. Lynne Curry take a break between sessions at History Careers Day in February.

Farewell...

Dr. Michael Shirley, longtime faculty member and undergraduate advisor, leaves us this year for Franklin, Indiana. Some alumni will remember Dr. Shirley for his Historical Publishing class, which shepherded many a grad student paper into the pages of *Historia*. He was also the tireless advisor for Phi Alpha Theta. Michael will be teaching courses at Franklin College. Thank you, Michael, for all you have done for the department. We wish you well!

Dr. Anita Shelton, our department chair since 1995, has moved to Doudna Fine Arts Center, where she has taken on the mantle of Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities. Congratulations to Dr. Shelton for this wonderful opportunity—and thank you to Dr. Nora Pat Small for picking up the banner as our new interim chair!

Dr. Malgorzata Rymysza-Pawlowska was with us a short while and taught mostly in the Historical Administration MA program, but recent graduates and current students will know her for her interesting work on the history of popular culture and her energetic advocacy of digital humanities. “Dr. R-P” had the opportunity to return to the East Coast, and is now Assistant Professor at American University in Washington, D.C. She will be missed.

Meet the New Graduate Students...

John Bays is a native of Charleston and received his BA in History with Departmental Honors from EIU in 2015. John is concentrating in European history, and has a particular passion for early modern history. This year he worked with Dr. Smith as assistant to the book review editor for H-France.

Michael Bradley also earned his B.A. in History with Departmental Honors from EIU. He has been working with Dr. Charlie Foy and is writing a thesis on transported convicts in the 18th century Atlantic world.

Brandon Cook earned his BS in History at SIU Carbondale. A history teacher and head baseball coach at Centralia Junior High School, Brandon is concentrating in US history and hopes to one day teach history at a community college.

Erin Harrington earned her B.A. in Government at Harvard University and afterward taught Social Studies at Urbana High School. She is working with Dr. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz toward her MA in US history. Afterward Erin plans to return to the classroom.

Alex Hays earned his B.A. in History from Judson University where he had the opportunity to study abroad at Oxford. Under the direction of Dr. Ed Wehrle, Alex is now researching a thesis on Billy Graham's influence on the US presidency.

Lanita Johnson is a graduate of the Quincy University History program. A US Navy veteran, Lanita has been researching Black soldiers in the American Revolutionary War, under the guidance of Dr. Charles Foy. (See photo, page 2.) She plans to write a thesis with Dr. Wehrle.

Larry Perlman has been teaching Political Science at Parkland Community College for forty years. With an M.S. in Political Science from University of Illinois and a B.A. in Political Science from Oglethorpe University, Larry hopes to one day pursue a PhD in East Asian history.

Nathaniel Rees earned his B.A. in History from EIU. A pre-law minor, Nathan was also an active member of Delta Tau Delta Fraternity. He has now had the opportunity to work as a graduate assistant in the Illinois Regional Archives Depository at Booth Library, which suits his concentration in US history.

Rene Tovar came to us with a BA in History and Geography from Elmhurst College, where she had a particular interest in medieval and east Asian history. She pursues her interests more deeply here as she works on a thesis, under Dr. Bailey Young's direction, on religious women in medieval Europe.

Sean Van Buskirk also studied History at Elmhurst, where he also minored in chemistry. With his advisor Dr. Ed Wehrle, Sean has turned his lifelong interest in space exploration into a thesis on the US space program.

Producers of History

For the past year, EIU MA grad Ian (Nelk) Holk (2012) has been working with several of our graduate students to produce a published, edited collection of graduate student essays.

As a managing editor of for Common Ground Publishing, Ian first proposed the idea in Spring 2016, and over the next academic year, Alyssa Peterson worked with Dr. Elder to develop a call for papers and recruit members of the editorial board. She and Alex Hays, Sean Van Buskirk, and Michael Bradley then collected the essays, vetted them, sent them out for peer review, and selected the papers for publication.

Ian has been guiding the students every step of the way with his professional expertise and his superb organizational skills.

The volume will be titled “Gender, Race, and Politics in World History,” and features twelve essays by master’s and doctoral students from institutions such as Cardiff University and Loyola University at Chicago. The book is tentatively scheduled to appear in December.

Ian leaves Champaign for new challenges next month (see “Class notes”), but he plans to remain involved with the program.

Class notes...

Leo Van Cleve (1986) was named one of 2016’s Distinguished Graduate Alumni by the EIU Graduate School. Leo is Dean of International and Summer Programs for the California State University system. While at EIU, he worked closely with Dr. Wolfgang Schlauch, who nominated him for this honor. Sadly, this year’s Graduate School Alumni Awards had to be canceled because of the ongoing budget crisis. But we hope Leo will join us in Charleston for future celebrations!

Mary Barford (2006) completed her PhD in History at Purdue University. She is now Professor at Ivy Tech Community College in Lafayette, Indiana.

Nathan Allison (2013) has begun doctoral work at Idaho University. Nathan was recently featured in a USA Today article about an archaeological dig in Tennessee.

Nichole Jones, formerly Garbrough, (2013) has landed a job with the Renton History Museum in Renton, Washington.

Ian Holk, formerly Nelk, (2012) is taking a position as a writer/editor National Center for Ethics in Healthcare of the VA in Washington, D.C.