

***Grad Notes Intelligencer August 2004 – an irregular newsletter of reports, hearsay, gossip, and information.***

**Welcome to all the new graduate students:** Below is each person's name and general field. You may already know several of these people as some have taken graduate classes before formal admittance.

Kory Bajus	Early Modern England/Women
Sarah Brill	Comparative World
Luke Dea	American
Jason Denzin	International
Matthew Garrett	American West
Joseph Harder	American Social
Sam Herley	American West
Ben Johnson	American military/diplomatic
Shane Johnson	American military
Roy Koepp	Modern Europe [German]
Leslie McDonald	Modern Europe [German]
David Nesheim	American West
Mark Nicholson	American diplomatic
Brenden Rensink	American West
Lisa Schuelke	American
Jamie Tallman	American sports
Robert Voss	American West

**History Graduate Students' Association**

Last spring several of the history graduate students decided that an organization dedicated to the concerns of graduate students in history could help make the graduate school experience a little easier along the way. Hence the birth of the History Graduate Students' Association, now a formally recognized organization, sanctioned by the University of Nebraska student government. ASUN. This is your opportunity to get involved. Get to know the HGSA officers (listed on the next page) and feel free to share your ideas with them.

Some goals have already been set. HGSA intends to establish and maintain a graduate student list-serve, so be looking for details regarding that in the next few weeks. The HGSA will also work with the grad chair and the chair of the department to develop topics for the historical forum and presentations for the Round Table. One final HGSA goal is to host a symposium next fall, and provide graduate students with the opportunity to be involved in the planning and execution of the event. We'll need volunteers to make the program work, and we'll also need grad students to contribute their own research and responses. We look forward to seeing where HGSA can go. We're all very busy, but being active in HGSA is one way to help make our corner of the university a little better.

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### HGSA Officers

Secretary/Treasurer—Chris Rasmussen

Vice President of Communications—Joann Ross

President—Tonia Compton

**WE ARE ESPECIALLY PROUD** of our recent Ph.D.s who are now teaching in tenure track jobs:

Jay Buckley at Brigham Young University in Utah

Mark Ellis at University of Nebraska - Kearney

Timothy Elston at Newberry College in South Carolina

John Husmann at Dakota Wesleyan in South Dakota

Renée Laegried at Hastings College in Nebraska

Akim Reinhardt at Towson State University in Maryland

Dave Snyder at Austen Peay State University in Tennessee

Ed Wood at Glenville State College in West Virginia

### AND ALSO

Andrea Radke is teaching at BYU – Idaho. She and Renée Laegried have both had their revised dissertations accepted for publication by the University of Nebraska Press.

Andrea's is on the history of co-education in the Great Plains states in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and Renée's is on rodeo queens. Andrea also has an essay forthcoming in the Great Plains Quarterly. We are so proud of both of them.

John Jacobsen, who is abd, has a tenure-track appointment at Williams Baptist College in Arkansas

Tekela Johnson, who is abd, has a tenure-track appointment at North Carolina A & T University

abd = all but dissertation – a liminal state graduate students should plan not to stay in too long.

Wendy Williams and Rob Duman, both with M.A.s from UNL, are teaching at the Air Force Academy in Colorado

Kristen Ahlberg works for the State Department in Washington DC

Yes, our students do go out and get good jobs!!!!

### **OTHER GRAD STUDENT NEWS**

Tonia Compton, Matt Walker, Russ Crawford, and Maria Munoz all presented papers at the **Missouri Valley History Conference** in Omaha this past spring. Also on the panels were a number of our faculty members as well.

Joann Ross presented three papers this summer: at the **Rocky Mountain Medieval and Renaissance Studies Conference** in Colorado, at the graduate student **Conference in Renaissance Studies** at the Newberry Library in Chicago, and at **The Evil, the Law, and the State Conference** at Oxford University. Below are some of her reflections on that conference:

The Evil, Law & the State Conference at Mansfield College, Oxford University, was an international conference that attracted scholars from such countries as England, Ireland, Belgium, Finland, Serbia and Montenegro, South Africa, Chile, Cypress, Australia, and the United States. Inter-disciplinary in nature, the conference provided a wonderful opportunity to meet with like-minded individuals who see the important intersection between human rights, history, political science, theology, philosophy and the law.

In the past year Tim Elston also received both the University award and the Arts and Sciences award for best teaching assistant and published the essay, "Transformation or Continuity: Sixteenth-Century Education and the Legacy of Catherine of Aragon, Mary I, and Juan Luis Vives," in *"High and Mighty Queens" of Early Modern England: Realities and Representations*, ed. Carole Levin, Debra Barrett-Graves, and Jo Eldridge Carney (Palgrave, 2003).

**CONGRATULATIONS** to all who received fellowships from Graduate Studies for 2004-05: Gretchen Albers who received the AAUW graduate fellowship, Tamara Levi, who received the Thompson fellowship, David Nesheim who received the Othmer fellowship, Joann Ross, who received the McDonald fellowship, and Donald Walker who received the Holtzclaw fellowship. As a reminder, applications for fellowships from the Graduate Office are due each February. We strongly encourage all graduate students to apply for fellowships, both from Graduate Studies and from the Department. We also have department fellowships such as the following, and we are proud of

Tonia Compton who received the Stover fellowship  
Kurt Kinbacher who received the McPhee fellowship  
Tamara Levi who received the Sheldon fellowship  
Tom E. Smith who received the Barnes fellowship  
Aaron Wilson who received the Heitzman fellowship

**CONGRATULATIONS** as well to Tom E. Smith and Joann Ross for receiving fellowships from the Human Rights and Human Diversity Program.

#### **PRIZE WINNING ESSAY**

Jonathan Went received the Ospovat award for the essay "Civilization, Savagery, and the Material Object" which he wrote in Professor Ben Rader's seminar in the spring of 2003. Remember, we give the Ospovat award for the best research paper produced in a history seminar the previous year so keep that in mind as you are researching and writing your papers this semester.

We will also be announcing other essay contests over the course of the year.

Tonia Compton had an amazing summer job. She describes it below:

I didn't realize I had joined the circus for the summer. There was a large blue and white striped tent. Every evening I donned a costume in order to present a performance under the big top. Various animals appeared throughout many of the shows, and there was even the occasional heckling from the crowd. I had not, however, actually become a member of Wringling Brothers circus. Instead, I spent the summer months traveling the Great Plains as a member of the Great Plains Chautauqua Society (GPCS). I must confess that I had no idea what I had truly gotten myself into until well after the work had begun.

The Chautauqua began as a religious educational movement in upstate New York in the late nineteenth century. Sunday Schools were held in outdoor venues throughout the summer. From that movement the Chautauqua grew to become a traveling educational event where speakers addressed important topics of the day. Men and women like William Jennings Bryan, Theodore Roosevelt and Carrie Nation traveled with the summer Chautauquas that permeated much of the nation. The vision of one man, the late Everett Albers, who firmly believed that the humanities belong to all of the people, revived the Chautauqua movement in the late 1970s and by summer 2004 nearly all 50 states have some sort of Chautauqua event.

The GPCS is the largest of the modern Chautauqua movements and consists of a ten-week tour throughout Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota. The GPCS theme for 2004-2006 is "From Sea to Shining Sea: American Expansion." Each week communities are invited to hear General William Clark, the Shawnee chief Tecumseh, Clark's manservant York, John Jacob Astor, and Sacagawea speak about their experiences in the first decades of the American nation, the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the impact of expansion on native peoples. Every evening is hosted by Dolley Madison. So, when I tell you that I'm Dolley Madison, it's not because I believe in reincarnation, but rather because I spent ten weeks pretending to be Dolley Madison. The question that I received most often from men and women that I encountered was how my job as Dolley Madison affected my research. After thinking about an appropriate response, I realized that pretending to be a woman in nineteenth-century America caused me as a scholar to rethink the ways in which I interpret women's (and men's) actions. Being limited to Dolley Madison's knowledge and beliefs about feminism, slavery, and Native Americans, has now made me more appreciate for the difficulty that we as historians face in reconstructing and interpreting the lives and thoughts of men and women whom we know, if we are lucky, only from the written word.

I could tell you many more stories about the Chautauqua. There were groupies, hail storms, some great coffee shops, and frightening hotel experiences. The end result, however, is that being a scholar for the Chautauqua is arguably the best summer job that a graduate student could find, and a learning experience far beyond what the seminar room, or even studying for comprehensive exams, could ever provide.

### **UP-COMING EVENTS:**

Clark Hulse, Professor of English and Art History and Dean of the Graduate College and Executive Vice Provost at University of Illinois at Chicago, will be visiting UNL. Tuesday September 28 at 7:30 p.m. he will present a slide lecture on portraiture in the Renaissance. This event is sponsored by the Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program. Wednesday September 29 at 2 p.m. he will speak on the future of graduate education in the humanities. Respondents will be Susan Belasco, Grad Chair of English, and Carole Levin, Grad Chair of History. Both events will take place in the Dudley Bailey Library on the second floor of Andrews Hall and are made possible by the generosity of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.

### **PAULEY LECTURE**

Professor Mark Neely of Penn State University will present this year's Pauley Lecture, "The Kansas-Nebraska Act and American Political Culture," on Monday, September 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the Warner Senate Chambers at the State Capitol.

Also on Monday September 20, he will meet with faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates in 638 Oldfather Hall at 3:30 p.m. to discuss American political culture and the Civil War. This is a great opportunity for graduate students, even if you are not specializing in American history and we encourage all of you to come.

Professor Neely is the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of a dozen books on the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln, including "The Fate of Liberty: Abraham Lincoln and Civil Liberties," "The Union Divided: Party Conflict in the Civil War Era," "The Last Best Hope of Earth: Abraham Lincoln and the Promise of America," "The Abraham Lincoln Encyclopedia," and "The Union Image: Popular Prints of the Civil War." Professor Neely's talk is part of the follow lecture series:

### **The Kansas-Nebraska Act: Celebrating the Sesquicentennial, 1854-2004**

This fall there will be a lecture series commemorating the sesquicentennial of the Kansas-Nebraska Act. All events will be held at the State Capital in the Warner Senate Chambers from 7:30-9:00. The project director for these events is Dr. John Wunder of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln history department, who is being assisted by graduate students Brendan Rensink and Joann Ross.

The lecture series will begin with the History Department's 2004 *Pauley Lecture* on September 20, 2004 to be given by Mark Neely, Jr., McCabe-Greer Professor of History at Pennsylvania State University. Dr. Neely will present a lecture entitled "The Kansas-Nebraska Act and American Political Culture."

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On October 4, 2004, Nicole Etcheson, Professor of History at the University of Texas at El Paso, will present a lecture entitled “Where Popular Sovereignty Worked: The Kansas Nebraska Act and Nebraska Territory.”

On October 25, 2004, Walter C. Rucker, Professor of African American and African Studies at Ohio State University, will present a lecture entitled “Unpopular Sovereignty: African-American Reactions and Resistance to the 1854 Kansas-Nebraska Act.”

The series will conclude on November 8, 2004 with “Stephen Douglas, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Alexander Stephens React to the Kansas-Nebraska Act: A Panel Discussion.” Panelists will include James Rawley, Phillip Paludan, Tekla Johnson, and Kenneth Winkle.

The Lecture series is sponsored by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Nebraska Humanities Council, and the University of Nebraska Press.

### **HISTORICAL FORUM**

Throughout the year we will have meetings of the Historical Forum, a discussion of topics of interest to graduate students and faculty. The first will be on Friday October 1 at 3:30 in History 638 and the topic will be FELLOWSHIPS – and how to get them!!!! Alternating months we will have a graduate student/faculty round table where people present work in progress. More announcements on these activities will be coming shortly.

Be sure to remember deadlines for graduation, etc – they are posted on the UNL web pages:

Link to the Graduate School page with information regarding resources for current UNL graduate students: <http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/>

I would like this newsletter to offer useful information and also to celebrate the many accomplishments of our graduate students. This first issue was certainly not inclusive. If any of you present a paper at a conference, publish an article or book review, win a fellowship, or any other activity or award of note, please let me know:

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