

FALL 2008

# HISTORY GRAD NOTES INTELLIGENCER

## A MESSAGE FROM THE HGSA PRESIDENT

*By Brenden Rensink*

A President much wiser than me once said something along these lines:

"Is there is anyone out there who still doubts that the UNL History Department is a place where all things are possible? Young and old, rich and poor, Americanists and Europeanists, Cultural and Military Historians, Political and Digital Historians...we have never been a collection of Masters and Doctoral Students: we are, and always will be, the History Graduate Students' Association.

The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one semester or even one year, but HGSA - I have never been more hopeful than I am today that we will get there. I promise you - we as an association will finish our degrees.

There will be setbacks and false starts. There are many who won't agree with every decision or policy I make as President, and we know that student organizations can't solve every problem. But I will always be honest with you about the challenges we face. I will listen to you, especially when we disagree. And above all, I will ask you to join in the work of remaking this association the only way it's been done at UNL for the past 4-5 years - block by block, brick by brick, calloused hand by calloused hand.

This is our moment. This is our time - to put our department back to work and open doors of opportunity for our future projects; to restore productivity and promote the cause of scholarship; to reclaim the graduate student dream of having three important letters behind our names and reaffirm the fundamental truth - that out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope, and where we are met with cynicism, and doubt, and those who tell us we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: Yes We Can."

In short, the HGSA executive committee and I are grateful for the help everyone is offering, excited about the scholarship that is being produced and hope to see greater and greater involvement by all UNL History Graduate Students in building a stronger, more cohesive and more cooperative community in the department.

### ***THIS ISSUE:***

A Message from the HGSA President.....	1
Upcoming Rawley Conference.....	2
New Grad Students.....	3
Spring 09 Seminar Highlights.....	4-5
Grad Student Awards & Honors.....	5
Alumni News.....	6
Grad Deadlines.....	7
Note from the Graduate Chair.....	8

### **Join Us For the HGSA Welcome Back Bowling Party!**

Friday, Jan. 16th 5:30  
to 7:30 p.m.

At East Campus  
Lanes 'N' Games

All history graduate  
students are invited.

Questions about the  
party? E-mail:  
HGSA@unlnotes.unl.edu

## ***FOURTH ANNUAL JAMES A. RAWLEY CONFERENCE IN THE HUMANITIES***

*By Brent Rogers*

On March 27-28, 2009, the Fourth Annual James A. Rawley Graduate Conference in the Humanities will be held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The conference is an annual event planned and hosted by the History Graduate Students' Association. Attending and presenting research at the Rawley Conference helps prepare students for future academic endeavors by providing a collegial environment for sharing scholarship, encouraging networking, and fostering meaningful discourse regarding the humanities.

This year's conference theme, "Contrasts & Commonalities: Expanding Perspectives Through Comparative Study," focuses on the increasing value of comparative methods of inquiry and analysis in scholarly development. Therefore, the 2009 Rawley Conference seeks to forward new scholarship that explores structural, cultural, and intellectual elements while unveiling common patterns and explaining differences.

Dr. Sterling Evans will deliver the keynote address. Dr. Evans is currently Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in History at Brandon University (Brandon, Manitoba, Canada), and is incoming (2009) Louise Welsh Chair in Southern Plains and Borderlands History at the University of Oklahoma. Dr. Evans has published extensively on Borderlands and Environmental history, often employing comparative methods. His most recent work, *Bound in Twine: The History and Ecology of the Henequen-Wheat Complex for Mexico and the American and Canadian Plains, 1880-1950*, won the 2007 Theodore Soloutos Prize from the Agricultural History Society.

The History Graduate Students' Association is now accepting paper and panel proposals with a submission deadline of January 15, 2009. Individuals should send a 250 word abstract and copy of curriculum vitae. Panel submissions should include vitas and abstracts for each participant (please designate a contact person).

Please send any questions and submissions to [hgsa@unlnotes.unl.edu](mailto:hgsa@unlnotes.unl.edu).

*PLEASE HELP WELCOME THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT'S  
NEW GRADUATE STUDENTS!*

M.A. Students:

**Bridget Barry** currently works full-time at the University of Nebraska Press as Associate Acquisitions Editor. She is interested in the North American West.

**Emily Nelson-Clements** graduated from Hope College in Holland, Michigan and is interested in American history.

**Brianna Theobald** is interested in the American West, with an emphasis in women's and native studies.

**Lindee Weese** is currently in her second year of law school, and hopes to graduate with both her J.D. and an M.A. in history by 2011. She is not quite certain about her specific area of study in history, though she would like to work with an American museum.

Ph.D. Students:

**Robert Jordan** completed his master's degree at the University of Texas at Dallas. His thesis was entitled "El Chupacabra: Icon of Resistance to U.S. Imperialism." Robert is interested in twentieth century Mexican cultural history, particularly the impact of the North American Free Trade Agreement on the Mexican agricultural sector and subsequent popular manifestations of anti-Americanism.

**Charles Klinetobe** is interested in American legal and political history. He completed his master's degree at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. His thesis, "The Best Laid Plans: Southern Legal Efforts to Preserve Segregation," explored the legal mechanisms employed by Southern governments to circumvent Civil Rights legislation and court decisions. Charles is interested in using digital history to further his research.

**Jared Leighton** completed his master's degree at UNL. His thesis, "A Small Revolution: The Role of a Black Power Revolt in Creating and Sustaining a Black Studies Department at the University of Minnesota," focused on the Black Power Movement in the Twin Cities area. Jared is continuing his research into twentieth century African-American history.

**Nathan Probasco** also completed his master's degree at UNL. His thesis focused on the English reaction to the Saint Bartholomew's Day Massacre of 1752. He will be continuing his research into the religious, political, and economic factors that accounted for the diplomatic situation of late sixteenth century Europe.

## SPRING 2009 HISTORY SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

### HIST 932, Early Modern Europe: Saints, Witches, and Madwomen with Dr. Carole Levin

The image of the madwoman has both frightened and intrigued people for centuries. Some historical periods have perceived visionary experiences as saintly, while in other periods some women have been labeled as witches, and in yet other times women have been called insane. We will examine the topic of how women on the margins have been labeled in different historical periods using theoretical, historical, and literary studies. Some of the questions we will be asking include: How do we define madness, and how is it different for women and men? What is the role of society in defining women as saint, as witch, or as madwoman? Why was similar behavior labeled visionary in one period, a witch in another, and a madwomen in a third? Why did the outbreak of witchcraft accusations happen in Europe and colonial America?

### HIST 941, Readings in American History: After 1877 with Dr. Margaret Jacobs and Dr. Will Thomas

This team-taught class is a pilot American history graduate seminar in the UNL History Department's new Graduate Program. We aim to offer a core course in American history from Reconstruction to the 1980's that:

- \*gives students a strong grounding in the primary historiographical issues and debates in post-Civil War American history
- \*prepares M.A. students for future graduate study in U.S. history
- \*helps to prepare Ph.D. students for their comprehensive exams in U.S. history
- \*assists students in developing and teaching the post-1865 U.S. history survey and other U.S. history classes
- \*promotes the ability to critically evaluate and engage with major historical questions
- \*enhances students' writing and oral communication skills

#### Readings will include:

Stephen Hahn, *A Nation Under Our Feet: Black Political Struggles in the Rural South from Slavery to the Great Migration*

William Cronon, *Nature's Metropolis: Chicago and the Great West*

Michael McGerr, *A Fiery Discontent: The Rise and Fall of the Progressive Movement in America, 1870-1920*

Matthew Jacobson, *Barbarian Virtues: The United States Encounters Foreign Peoples at Home and Abroad, 1876-1917*

Nan Enstad, *Ladies of Labor, Girls of Adventure*

Mae Ngai, *Impossible Subjects: Illegal Aliens and the Making of Modern America*

Alan Brinkley, *The End of Reform: New Deal Liberalism in Recession and War*

Risa Goluboff, *The Lost Promise of Civil Rights*

Odd Arne Westad, *The Global Cold War: Third World Interventions and the Making of Our Times*

Lizabeth Cohen, *A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America*

David Chappell, *A Stone of Hope: Prophetic Religion and the Death of Jim Crow*

## SPRING 2009 HISTORY SEMINAR HIGHLIGHTS

(continued from page 4)

### HIST 942, American Cultural History with Dr. Jeannette Jones

This course provides a graduate-level overview of the cultural history of the United States from the colonial era to the late 20th century, with emphases on the methodologies and historiography of the "New Cultural History." Reading seminal monographs, students will explore the major historiographical debates in U.S. Cultural History informed by such concepts as "the people," tradition, folklore, leisure, ideology, popular culture, public culture, mass culture, material culture, visual culture, film culture, postcolonial studies, cultural myths, cultural memory, cultural studies, ethno-history, and the like. What do we mean by "culture?" How have the categories of race, gender, sexuality, and class shaped and operated as signifiers in U.S. cultural history? Ultimately, the objectives of the course are twofold: (1) to introduce students to the historical literature of U.S. cultural history and (2) to supply them with methodological frameworks to guide their own inquiries into the cultural history of America.

### HIST 961, The International History of the Twentieth Century with Dr. Tim Borstelmann

This seminar explores the international history of the twentieth century. Major topics will include colonialism and decolonization, great-power conflicts, the world economy, and the role of ideology. The course will emphasize connections and comparisons across national borders, incorporating the perspectives of both international relations and world history. One important purpose of the course is to lay the foundation for graduate students to develop their own undergraduate course on a similar topic that they might one day teach. Class meetings will be devoted to close reading and analysis of primary and secondary sources.

## GRAD STUDENT AWARDS & HONORS

**Nathan Sanderson**, Ph.D. Candidate in United States History, recently presented a paper, "We Were All Trespassers: George E. Lemmon, Anglo-American Cattle Ranching and the Great Sioux Reservation," at the Northern Great Plains History Conference in Brandon, Manitoba. His paper received the conference's award for Best Student Paper. Nathan also has an article, "More Than A Potluck: Shared Meals and Community-Building in Rural Nebraska at the Turn of the Twentieth Century," in the upcoming issue of *Nebraska History*.

**Charles Klinetobe**, Ph.D. Student in United States Legal and Twentieth Century History, has an article, "Complicated Shadows: Ty Cobb and the Public Perception," accepted for publication in an upcoming issue of *Nine: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture*. This article is co-written with Dr. Steve Bullock, a UNL graduate and current professor of history at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

At the recent Western History Association Conference **Leslie Working**, Ph.D. Student, **Nathan Sanderson**, Ph.D. Candidate, and **Kurt Kinbacher**, UNL graduate and current history professor at Spokane Falls Community College, presented their digital research findings in a panel, "New Directions in Railroad History: Using Digital Tools to Address Social, Political, and Demographic Mobility in Nebraska And Beyond." Check out their blog posts on their research and experience at the conference at <http://digitalhistory.unl.edu/blog/index.php>.

**Shannon D. Smith** has published her master's thesis, *Give Me Eighty Men: Women and the Myth of the Fetterman Fight*, with the University of Nebraska Press (2008). She is currently a doctoral student at UNL and teaches history at Oglala Lakota College on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

**Brenden Rensink**, Ph.D. Candidate, was featured in the Summer 2008 edition of *J Alumni News*, discussing the digitization of nineteenth century Nebraska newspapers for the Library of Congress. Rensink also recently contributed a chapter, "Nebraska and Kansas Territories in American Legal Culture: Territorial Statutor Context," to *The Nebraska-Kansas Act of 1854* (edited by John Wunder and Joann Ross, University of Nebraska Press, 2008).

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Akim Reinhardt** recently received the Great Plains Distinguished Book Prize for his book *Ruling Pine Ridge: Oglala Lakota Politics from the IRA to Wounded Knee* (Texas Tech University Press, 2007). Reinhardt graduated from UNL in 2003 and is currently an Associate Professor of History at Towson University in Maryland.

**Andrea Radke-Moss** published her revised dissertation, *Bright Epoch: Women and Coeducation in the American West*, with the University of Nebraska Press (2008). She is currently an Assistant Professor of History at Brigham Young University-Idaho.

**Kurt Kinbacher**, who received his Ph.D. in history from UNL in 2006, co-authored "Shaping Nebraska: An Analysis of Railroad and Land Sales, 1870-1880" with William G. Thomas III. The article appeared in the Summer 2008 edition of *Great Plains Quarterly*. Kinbacher also co-edited *Reconfiguration of Native North America* with John Wunder, which will be published by the University of Nebraska Press in December 2008.

**Jay H. Buckley**, Assistant Professor of History at Brigham Young University and 2001 UNL graduate, published his dissertation, *William Clark: Indian Diplomat*, with the University of Oklahoma Press (2008).

**Francis Moul's** *The National Grasslands: A Guide to America's Undiscovered Treasures* (with photography by Georg Joutras), published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2006, was the recipient of the Nebraska Book award in the nonfiction category, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book in 2007).

**Mark Ellis** and **Heather Stauffer** have co-written a history of Kearney, Nebraska (published by Arcadia Publishing in 2006). Stauffer is currently working on a master's degree in English at UNL. Ellis, currently an Associate Professor of History at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, also recently published his dissertation, *Law and Order in Buffalo Bill's Country: Legal Culture and Community on the Great Plains, 1867-1910* (University of Nebraska Press, 2007).

**Mark Awakuni-Swetland** has published his honors thesis, *Dance Lodges of the Omaha People: Building from Memory*, with the University of Nebraska Press (2008). He is currently a professor in anthropology and ethnic studies at UNL and teaches the Omaha language.

**Mark Sherer** has published his dissertation, *Rights in the Balance: Free Press, Fair Trial, and Nebraska Press Association v. Stuart*, with Texas Tech University Press (2008). Sherer is currently an Associate Professor of History at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.

**Dennis J. Smith** recently published *The History of the Fort Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana, 1800-2000* with the Montana State Historical Society Press (2008).

**Timothy Anderson**, a 2007 UNL graduate, is currently an Assistant Professor in the College of Journalism and Mass Communications at UNL.

**John Jacobson**, a 2004 UNL graduate, has left his position at Williams Baptist College and is heading to Iraq to serve as a chaplain to U.S. troops.

## ***IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS***

Master's Students Graduating in May 2009:

### **Memorandum of Courses**

Must be submitted prior to the completion of over one-half of coursework.

### **Jan. 30— Application for Degree**

Application for Degree Form must be completed and submitted to the Graduate Services Office, 109 Canfield Administration Building, with a \$25 payment.

### **March 26—Final Examination Report**

Completed form due to Master's Specialist in the Office of Graduate Studies. Must be filed *at least four weeks before* oral examinations.

### **April 9—Preliminary Copy of Thesis**

Due to the Office of Graduate Studies *two weeks before* your oral examination date, but not later than April 9th. Preliminary thesis copies may be submitted to the master's specialist electronically

### **April 23—Final day oral examinations can be held.**

### **April 24—Deposit of Thesis**

Final copies must be presented to the Office of Graduate Studies prior to depositing your thesis in 318 Love Library. **Payment of binding fee** must be paid and can be paid at the Cashier Window, 121 Canfield Administration Building. Finally, **Deposits of Final Examination Report** form must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies.

Ph.D. Students Graduating in May 2009:

### **Feb. 2 — Application for Degree**

Application for Degree Form must be completed and submitted to the Graduate Services Office, 109 Canfield Administration Building, with a \$25 payment.

### **April 2 — Application for Final Oral Examination**

### **April 23 — Final Day for Oral Examinations**

**May 8, 2009—Semester Ends**

## *A NOTE FROM THE GRADUATE CHAIR...*

Welcome to the new graduate students! The History Department is very pleased to have these young scholars join our ranks and team up with the returning veterans in our graduate program. The faculty ranks of the department have grown dramatically in recent years, and this is an exciting era to be studying history at Nebraska. A quick conversation in the hallway or a swift web search will reveal a great deal of fascinating and significant research being done by our faculty. We hope you will take the invitation to seek out faculty members for conversation about your research and teaching interests.

Please give particular consideration to participating in the upcoming Fourth Annual James A. Rawley Conference in the Humanities. Named in honor of one of our department's most esteemed former members, the conference provides an excellent and unusually accessible opportunity to begin discovering how historians gather and share their ongoing research. It is also a fine promotion of our department, and we hope you will get involved.

Please also note the first offering of History 941 in the spring semester. All students in U.S. history should be taking this new course unless there is a particular circumstance that prevents them doing so. Indeed, many if not most students in non-U.S. areas will also likely take this course. As an introductory and historiographical readings seminar in U.S. since 1877, History 941 provides a foundation for all students interested in more recent U.S. history. Similar broad readings seminars will be offered in other fields in subsequent semesters.

Tim Borstelmann

Chair of the Graduate Committee

If you have any news or other items for publication in future *Intelligencers*, please contact Michelle Tiedje at [mtiedje@huskers.unl.edu](mailto:mtiedje@huskers.unl.edu). We welcome your comments and suggestions.