



UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON | HISTORY

Newsletter

Issue 1, May 2015



Letter from the Chairperson:

Welcome to the first edition of the History Department's new newsletter. The department has been a bustling place the last several years with over a dozen new monographs published, several of which won book awards; the hiring of new faculty in fields ranging from Arab history to women's history; the graduating of 100s of undergrads; and the completion of many masters and doctoral degrees.

The History Department is thriving because the discipline is integral to so many aspects of modern life: politics, health care, the arts, the environment, race and gender relations, and foreign policy. Our faculty span the globe in terms of their research and teaching interests, which include ancient history; medical history; the history of race, class, and gender; modern Arab history; political and social history; borderlands history; the history of the environment; energy history; African history; Chinese history; European history; Latin American history; and U.S. history.

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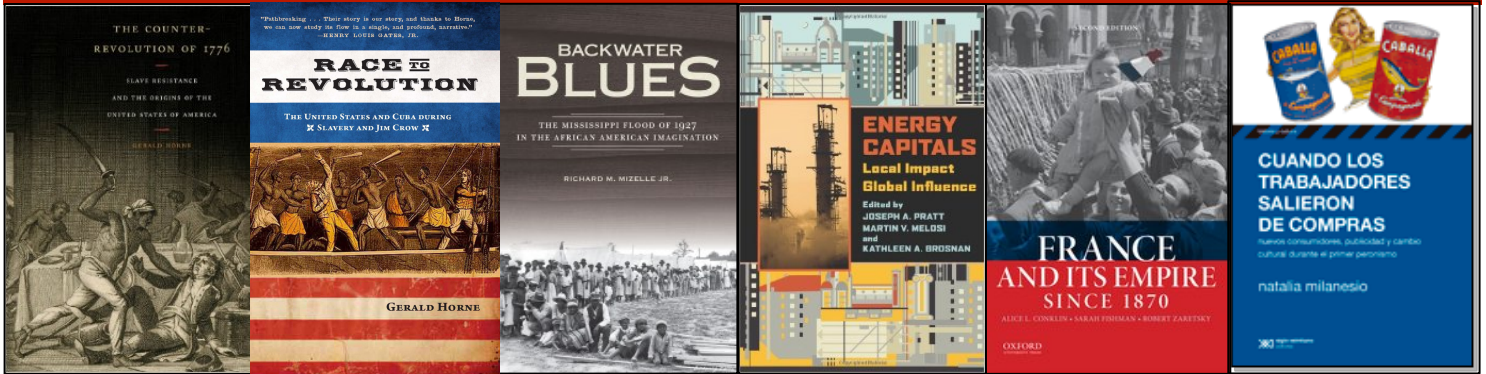
Students routinely ask me what they can do with a History major and my answer is always, "whatever you want!" Students learn important research and writing skills that allow them to tackle the world's most challenging problems. Our grads have gone on to have amazing careers ranging from the teaching field to the law and even photojournalism. Read more in the articles that follow about our accomplishments.

All best,

Nancy Beck Young

Professor and Chair

Faculty News



Books Published in 2014:

The department enjoyed another productive year in book publication – the paramount intellectual contribution of our profession. This year, our faculty produced three new monographs, two co-edited volumes, and one translation of a previously published work:

Gerald C. Horne published two books: *The Counter-Revolution of 1776: Slave Resistance and the Origins of the U.S.A.* (New York University Press, 2014) and *Race to Revolution: The U.S. and Cuba During Slavery and Jim Crow* (Monthly Review Press, 2014).

Richard M. Mizelle, Jr., *Backwater Blues: The Mississippi Flood of 1927 in the African-American Imagination* (University of Minnesota Press, 2014)

Energy Capitals: Local Impacts, Global Influence, ed. **Martin V. Melosi, Joseph A. Pratt**, and Kathleen A. Brosnan (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2014)

France and Its Empire Since 1870, ed. Alice L. Conklin, **Sarah Fishman**, and Robert Zaretsky (Oxford University Press, 2014), 2nd ed.

Natalia Milanesio, *Cuando los trabajadores salieron de compras. Nuevos consumidores, publicidad y cambio cultural durante el peronismo* (Buenos Aires: Siglo Veintiuno

Editores, 2014), originally published as Natalia Milanesio, *Workers Go Shopping in Argentina: The Rise of Popular Consumer Culture* (University of New Mexico Press, 2013).

Selected Articles Published in 2014:

Our faculty also published their peer-reviewed work in article format, either in scholarly journals, in edited volumes, or in digital format. The following are a sample of the articles published in 2014:

Matthew J. Clavin published two articles: “Interracialism and Revolution: Pensacola in the Civil War,” *Journal of Southern History* 80, no. 4 (November 2014): 791-826, and “An ‘underground railway’ to Pensacola and the Impending Crisis over Slavery,” *Florida Historical Quarterly* 92, no. 4 (Spring 2014): 685-713, which won the 2015 Arthur W. Thompson Award from the Florida Historical Society for best article published in the prior volume in the *FHQ*.

Xiaoping Cong “‘Ma Xiwu’s Way of Judging’: Villages, the Masses, and the Legal Construction in Revolutionary China of the 1940s,” *The China Journal*, 72:1 (July 2014): 29-52.

Mark A. Goldberg, “Curing the Nation with Cacti: Native Healing and State Building before the Texas Revolution,” in *Precarious Prescriptions: Contested Histories of Race and Health in North*

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America, ed. Laurie Green, John Mckiernan-González, and Martin Summers (University of Minnesota Press, 2014), 1-22.

John Mason Hart, “Mexican-US Relations” in *Oxford Bibliographies Online* (2014) DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780199766581-0119

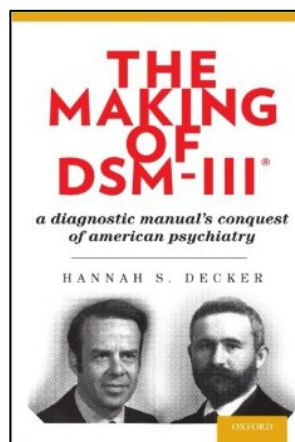
Martin V. Melosi, “Houston’s Public Sinks: Water and Wastewater Services in the ‘Energy Capital’ of the World,” in *A History of Water*, Series III, volume 1: *Water and Urbanization*, ed. Terje Ostigard (London: I.B. Tauris & Co., Ltd, 2014), 450-73

Natalia Milanesio, “A Man like You: Juan Domingo Perón and the Politics of Attraction in Mid-Twentieth-Century Argentina,” *Gender and History*, Vol. 26, No. 1, April 2014, pp. 84-104.

Eric Walther, "A Monument of Paper to William Lowndes Yancey: Crafting and Obscuring Historical Memory," in Samuel C. Hyde, Jr., ed., *The Enigmatic South: Toward the Civil War and its Legacies* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2014)

Awards, Prizes, and Grants in 2014:

Hannah S. Decker was awarded a Special Presidential Commendation by the American Psychiatric Association for her book *The Making of DSM-III: A Diagnostic Manual’s Conquest of American Psychiatry* (Oxford University Press, 2013). Based on her research, Professor Decker developed a new undergraduate course: “The History of Madness,” a history of mental illness in the West since the Enlightenment.



Kelly Hopkins was selected to participate in an NEH Summer Institute in 2014 on “Mapping Nature Across the Americas,” held at the Newberry Library in Chicago in July and August, 2014.

Gerald Horne received the Carter G. Woodson Scholar Medallion for 2014 from the Association for the Study of African-American Life and History (ASALH). Established in 1993, the Carter Godwin Woodson Scholars Medallion is presented to a scholar whose career is distinguished through at least a decade of research, writing, and activism in the field of African American life and history.

Susan Kellogg was awarded the UH University Commission on Women's Distinguished Faculty Award in the post-tenure faculty category for 2014. The Commission, which promotes gender equality throughout all areas of the UH community, recognizes faculty who demonstrate a solid record of representative scholarly activity and productivity, which contributes to, and impacts, their discipline.

Natalia Milanesio received the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies (RMCLAS) Thomas McGann Book Award for the best book on Latin American history published in 2013. In addition, Dr. **Milanesio** was awarded the Leopold-Hidy Award for the best article published in *Environmental History* from the American Society of Environmental History (ASEH) for her article "The Liberating Flame: Natural Gas Production in Peronist Argentina." The formal award presentation was made at the meeting of the ASEH in San Francisco in March 2014.

Joseph A. Pratt was awarded was awarded the 2014 Piper Professor Award. The award, given by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation, recognizes superior teaching at the college level in the state of Texas. Begun in 1958, the Piper Professor Award has recognized outstanding professors from two and four-year colleges and universities.

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Raúl Ramos was selected to participate in the China Residency Program on Western History sponsored by the Organization of American Historians (OAH) and the American History Research Association of China (AHRAC). This project, funded by the Ford Foundation, allows the two organizations to sponsor a teaching seminar in China for graduate students and junior scholars. This year's teaching seminars will be held at Renmin University in China. Dr. Ramos received his award at the OAH meeting in St. Louis and will travel to China this Summer.

Kristin Wintersteen was awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Institute of Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin for the 2014-2015 academic year. The program invited scholars to examine the history of capital and commodities. As a fellow-in-residence, Dr. Wintersteen worked on her book project on the industrialization of fisheries in the Humboldt Current marine ecosystem, off the coast of Peru and Chile, and its relation to the global industrial food system.

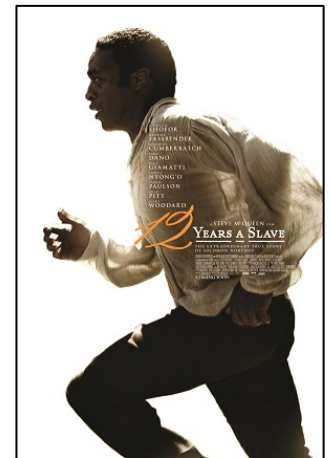
Nancy Beck Young was selected to participate in an NEH Summer Institute in 2014 on "Doing Digital History," run by the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History in New Media, George Mason University, August 4-15. **Dr. Young** also received the inaugural Guittard Book Award for Historical Scholarship for her monograph *Why We Fight: Congress and the Politics of World War II* (University of Kansas Press, 2013). The award is given by the Department of History at Baylor University for "a distinguished work of original scholarship" published by current or emeritus faculty or current or former students.

Leandra Zarnow was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Summer Stipend for 2015 to complete research and writing for her book manuscript, entitled "Passionate Politics: Bella Abzug and the Promise and Peril of the American Left." Summer

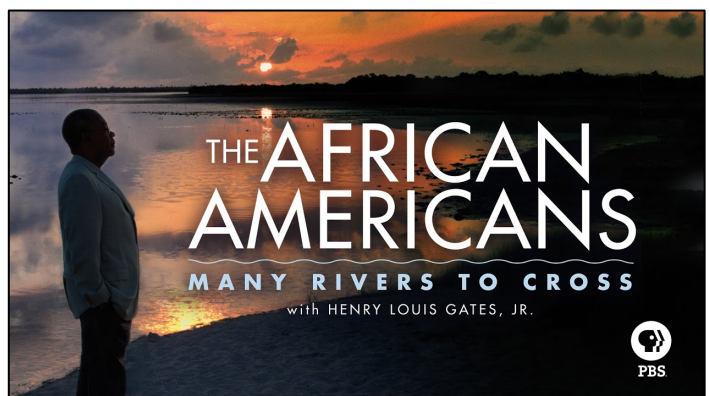
Stipends support individuals "pursuing advanced research that is of value to humanities scholars, general audiences, or both." The award supports "continuous full-time work on a humanities project for a period of two consecutive months." These awards are highly prestigious and competitive, with only about 8% of applications earning funding.

Other Faculty News:

Steven Deyle served as a historical consultant and member of the creative team for the recent Academy Award winning film, *12 Years a Slave* (20th Century Fox Film Corp., 2013). He worked with Brad Pitt's production company, "Plan B Entertainment."



Steven Deyle also appeared in an episode of the Emmy-winning 6-part PBS series "The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross" hosted by Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. The series, which aired on PBS in October and November of last year, explored the history of the African-American people, including the cultural institutions, political strategies, and religious and social perspectives they developed. Deyle was featured in the 2nd episode, "The Age of Slavery (1800-1860)." A small portion of Dr. Deyle's appearance with Dr. Gates can be seen in the clip "The Cotton Economy and Slavery," on the series' website.



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The 165 attendees at the Southwestern Council of Latin American Studies convention in Costa Rica voted unanimously in general assembly to name their article of the year award for the best article in the *Journal of the Southwestern Council of Latin American Studies* the "John Mason Hart Prize" in honor of our own **John M. Hart**.

As an Onassis Senior Visiting Scholar, **Frank Holt** presented in 2014 a series of lectures and seminars at the University of Chicago, University of Cincinnati, and University of Illinois in conjunction with his forthcoming book *The Treasures of Alexander the Great* (Oxford University Press). His paper on "Who Were the Indo-Greeks?" was read *in absentia* as the keynote address for the 'International Conference on Greek Studies: An Asian Perspective' hosted by Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi in February 2014.

In the spring of 2014, **James K. Martin** completed his term as the James C. Rees Research Fellow at the National Presidential Library for the Study of George Washington, in Mount Vernon, Virginia.

Todd Romero and **Monica Perales** began to convene their "Houston Eats!" faculty reading group in Spring 2014. The reading group, which includes other faculty from History and other departments in CLASS, will meet three times a semester for three years to discuss scholarship and teaching in food studies. The reading group is funded by a three year NEH grant, which is intended to spark the establishment of a Food Studies minor in CLASS and promote the growth and development of the Gulf Coast Food Project, an scholarly collaboration at UH founded by Romero and Perales along with Temple Northup in Communications.

Finally, the History Department welcomed two new faculty in Fall 2014 – Assistant Professor **Leandra Zarnow** and Associate Professor **José Angel Hernández**. Welcome to the Department!

Graduate Student News

Awards, Honors, and Prizes:

Every Spring, the department sponsors prizes to recognize meritorious graduate students. The recipients for 2015 are the following: **Christopher Haight (Young)** won the Stanley Siegal Prize for best paper in Texas History; **Samantha Rodriguez (Perales)** won the Margaret Henson Award for best paper in Women's History; **Sandra Enriquez (Perales)** won the Ernesto Valdes Prize for Oral History; and **Frances Joseph (Holt)** won the John King Prize for Outstanding Graduate Student. Congratulations!

A record number of our graduate students won dissertation completion fellowships from the

College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences this year. Applicants from throughout CLASS compete for about a dozen fellowships, which provide a year of funding to support dedicated dissertation writing. This year's recipients from History are **Samantha Rodriguez (Perales)**, **Katie Streit (Ittman)**, and **Savannah Williamson (Walther)**. Congratulations!

At the university level, **Becky Smith (Young)** was one of only four campus-wide recipients of the Provost's Graduate Teaching Excellence Award. Congratulations, Becky!

At the national level, **Savannah Williamson (Walther)** won a prestigious NEH Summer Institute Fellowship to attend the seminar on "Slavery in the American Republic: From

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Constitution to Civil War.” This two-week Institute, held in Washington, DC and Charlottesville, Virginia, brings together faculty participants (and a select few doctoral candidates!) to explore “the rapidly accumulating new collaborative scholarship, which focuses on the reading and interpretation of slavery in American from the writing of the Constitution to the Civil War. The multidisciplinary approach provides a distinct perspective allowing for greater understanding of the complexities of slavery in America and opens a window onto how slavery could exist in a country founded on many of the ideals of the Enlightenment.” Congratulations, Savannah!

Conference Papers Delivered:

In addition to winning awards, our students are actively engaged in presenting their research at national conferences:

In April, a cohort of Latin Americanists gave papers at the Rock Mountain Council on Latin American Studies (RMCLAS) annual meeting in Tuscon, Arizona: **Ivan Arteaga (Hart)**, "Race and Prejudice: The Role of Telenovelas in the Construction of Race in Mexico"; **Rikki Bettinger (Kellogg)**, "Death in the Tropics: Maria Nugent's Jamaican Journal"; **Tracy Butler (O'Brien)**, "Cancun Rising: Race, Gender and the Commodification of Culture in Tourism, 1970-2000"; **Ally Castillo (Kellogg)**, "Defining 'Outsider': The Threat of Protestantism and the Catholic Church in Colonial Mexico"; and **Daniel Mendiola (Kellogg)**, "Constructing Heroes and Villains: Bandits and Indigenous Raiders in 19th-Century Mexico."

Francesca Guerri (Vaughn) will present her paper "The Relationship between Matilda of Tuscany and Anselm of Lucca During the Time of the Investiture Conflict" at the International

Congress for Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo MI, May 2015.

Graduation News:

Finally, we wish to celebrate the many students who completed and defended their master's theses and doctoral dissertations this year:

Jordan Bauer (Ph.D., Melosi), "Sunbelt Growing Pains: Urban Environmental Politics in North Carolina's Research Triangle, 1950-2000" Fall 2014

Mahdi Domitrovich (Ph.D., Buzzanco) Fall 2014

Natalie Garza, (Ph.D., Hart), "The Other's Side: Culture Consequences of Transnational Migration, 1930-1996" Fall 2014

Alejandra Jaramillo (Ph.D., Kellogg), "Litigious Paupers: Natives and Colonial Demands in Tlaxcala, 1545-1800" Fall 2014

James Arlington (Ph.D., Horne), "The Art of Manipulation: Agents of Influence and the Rise of the American National Security State, 1914-1960" Spring 2015

Ira Lee Berlet (Ph.D., Walther), "Black Abolitionists and Masculinity in the Age of American Emancipation, 1833-1863" Spring 2015

Daniel LeClair (Ph.D., Ittman), "Supervising a Revolution: British Ordnance Committees, Private Inventors, and Military Technology in the Victorian Era" Spring 2015

James McWhorter (M.A. non-thesis, Melosi), Spring 2015

Lindsay Scovil (M.A., Melosi), "A Market for Death: The Use and Abuse of Cadavers in 19th Century America" Spring 2015

Congratulations!!!

Undergraduate Student News



The History Department is especially proud of our undergraduate students, many of whom go on to become history majors. In order to recognize academic excellence in the study of history, the Department awards a number of scholarships every Spring.

Hayder Ali was the recipient of the Murray Miller Undergraduate Scholarship. The \$1,000.00 scholarship is awarded on the basis of an essay contest, the topic of which changes every year. This year's topic is featured on the center panel of this page. Applicants were asked to write a 750 word essay analyzing the quote. The Undergraduate Committee selects the winner of the contest. Congratulations to Hayder!

Cynthia Martinez was the recipient for this year's Helen M. Douthitt Scholarship. The award is given to an outstanding female History major each year, and includes a scholarship.

Eric Boutin-Bloomberg received the award for Outstanding Achievement in History. The award recognizes the graduating History major with the highest overall grade point average.

Aimee Marte received the award for Distinguished Achievement in History. The award recognizes the History major with meritorious academic achievement in the discipline of History.

A number of History majors received P.C. and Josephine Del Barto Scholarships for 2015-2016.

The scholarships are awarded to returning History majors based on academic excellent and achievement. Over time, the endowment has grown to support more than a dozen scholarships. The recipients for 2015-2016 are: **Hayder Ali, Alex Young Paul, Darien Aliaga, Rebecca Perry, Tara**

Courtney Bemko, Melvin D. Rodriguez, John Anthony Brundrett, Jordan Salazar, David Hudson, Steven L. Sherman, Paul Jann, Connor Alan Vanderweide, La'Nora Menyon Jefferson, Stephanie G. Vidal, and Lauren Elizabeth Park.

Finally, each year the Chairperson recognizes a number of students who have distinguished themselves through their coursework in History. This year's recipients of the Chair's Recognition are Carla Y. K, James Wang, Andrew Martin, Jennifer Yarborough, Roel Torres, and Devyn Fraser.

“History never looks like history when you are living through it.

It always looks confusing and messy, and it always feels uncomfortable.”

John W. Gardner

Alumni News

Mahmadul Huque (Martin, 1988), Professor of History at the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh, published two books in 2014: *War and Peace in South Asia: American Policy in Historical Perspective* (Dhaka: Academic Press and Publishers Library, 2014) and *From Autonomy to Independence: The United States, Pakistan and the Emergence of Bangladesh* (New Delhi: Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Limited, 2014).

Jean Truax (Vaughn, Ph.D., 1988), recently published a book, *Archbishops Ralph d'Escures, William of Corbeil, and Theobald of Bec, Between Anselm and Becket*, (Ashgate, 2012). She has another book in press, *Aelred of Rievaulx: Author, Administrator, and Political Operative*, manuscript proposal accepted by Cistercian Publications Press 2013; manuscript now completed, Spring 2014.

Terry Rugeley (Hart, Ph.D. 1992), Professor of History at the University of Oklahoma, published his eleventh book: *The River People in Flood Time: The Civil Wars in Tabasco, Spoilers of Empires* (Stanford University Press, 2014).

LaGuana K. Gray (Storrs, Ph.D. 2007), Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at San Antonio, published her first book, *We Just Keep Runnin' The Line: Black Southern Women and the Poultry Processing Industry* (Louisiana State University Press, 2014).



Felipe Hinojosa (San Miguel, 2009), Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University, recently published his first book, *Latino Mennonites: Civil Rights, Faith, and Evangelical Culture* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014).

Holle Canatella (Vaughn, Ph.D., 2010), Assistant Professor of History at Locke Haven University, Pennsylvania, was awarded with a group of her colleagues a \$15,000 mini-grant from the Center for Rural Pennsylvania, which is a bipartisan, bicameral agency in the Pennsylvania State Assembly, to conduct research on barriers to domestic violence services in rural counties.

Courtney de Mayo (Vaughn, Ph.D. 2010) won the 2015 Ream-Paradiso Distinguished Teaching Award at Heidelberg University, Ohio, where she is an Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of History, Anthropology, and International Studies.

Mikaela Selley (Melosi, M.A. 2013) curated an exhibit in Fall 2014 on the history of Houston's Northside, a historic Mexican American community, using collections at the Houston Metropolitan Research Center of the Houston Public Library. The exhibit was unveiled at an opening reception held at the Carnegie Neighborhood Library and Center for Learning. Selley was hired in 2013 as the first archivist at HPL dedicated to Mexican American collections.

Charlotte Whatley (Vaughn, M.A. 2014) published an article "Temporalities Be Taken: Edward III, Unruly Ecclesiastics, and the Fight for Exeter's Benefices" in *Fourteenth Century England*, vol. 8 (Woodbridge: Boydell and Brewer, 2014). She matriculates to the doctoral program at the University of Wisconsin in Fall 2015.

Please send your news to the Department's Director of Library and Technology Services, currently Dr. James Schafer, jschafer@uh.edu.