Greetings from the Chair, Dr. Thomas N. Baker

Somehow Dr. Imai has found time in her busy day to pull together this newsletter. Thanks to her from all of us. The newsletter is a chance for history majors – present and past – to keep up with department news, and most of all with the wonderful work done by our students. We hope you enjoy it, and keep an eye out for future issues.

Honors and Awards

The department offers several awards to students. Congratulations to the following:

Department Scholars
William Barr, Amy James
Mahala Nyberg, Austin Raetz

F. Roger Dunn Memorial Essay Award
Erik Viner

Ilse J. Shaw History Award
Amy James

Roger L. Briggs Award
Jacqueline Whitman

Robert and Katherine Briggs Scholarship
William Barr, Gerard Jemison, Katrina Martin

Father James Pennock Scholarship
Mahala Nyberg, Austin Raetz

John F. Schwaller Award
Heidi Kreckel

We thank our donors for their generous support for these awards and scholarships.
Student and Alumni News

Courtney Doyle (’12) was the driving force behind the successful placement of the Potsdam Civic Center into the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1875, the structure on 2 Park Street was a Universalist Church and now houses a library, museum, and civic offices.

Katie Ebersole (’16) is spending the semester in New York City as an intern at the World Policy Institute. Founded in 1961, it is one of the world’s leading think tanks for non-partisan global policy analysis.

Liam Kingsley (’16) was awarded the Amelia Morey Essay Prize by Women’s and Gender Studies.

Katelyn Legacy (’16) published her article, “Chateaugay’s Booming Businesses: A Small Town in the 1950s” in the Chateaugay Historical Society Newsletter (Issue 3, 2015). Based on a paper that she wrote for Dr. M. J. Heisey’s “Work in American History,” it tells the story of Franklin County’s oldest town using photos and news from the Chateaugay Record, which is no longer in print.

Philip Paige (’15) has landed a job with St. Lawrence County as the Assistant County Administrator. He received his master’s degree in public administration from the Maxwell School, Syracuse University in July.

Jessica Pena (’11) served as the Communications, Marketing and Social Media intern at the Amsterdam Summer School this summer. She received a master’s degree in world history at the City College of New York in June and now works at its Study Abroad Office.

Natalia Veinott (’08) is the Visitor Experience Manager at the Farm Sanctuary. She oversees a team of tour guides, volunteers, and support staff, welcoming thousands of guests who visit the farm each year.

Faculty Publications

Dr. M. J. Heisey has published her second book, Relief Work as Pilgrimage: “Mademoiselle Miss Elsie” in Southern France, 1945-1948 by Rowman & Littlefield. Co-authored with her sister, Dr. Nancy R. Heisey, it is based on the diary of Elsie C. Bechtel, an American pacifist relief worker who recorded her encounters with French society and her musings on her co-workers in the tiny French commune of Lavercantière. As a volunteer with the Mennonite Central Committee, Bechtel was part of a broader relief effort among pacifist Quakers and Anabaptists who distributed food, shared clothing, and sheltered refugees during and after the war.

Phi Alpha Theta

The annual Phi Alpha Theta dinner was held at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Potsdam in April. The inductees and their guests were treated to a special dinner prepared by Dr. Sheila McIntyre and Dr. M. J. Heisey. History alum Brent Frary served as the guest speaker. He is completing a JD in Law and a Master’s in Bioethics at Albany Law School of Union University and Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Founded in 1921 nationally, Phi Alpha Theta is the international honor society in history.
New Courses

HIST295a: Eat: A Global History of Food surveys the global history of food since 1450, with particular attention to areas outside of Europe and the US. Taught by Dr. Libbie Freed

HIST295b: Immigrant America takes a transnational approach to American history with a focus on the movement of people, goods, and ideas across national boundaries. Taught by Dr. Shiho Imai

HIST311: Indians and Iberians offers a history of Latin America focused on the exchange and transformation of Native American and Spanish cultures to form the Hispanic American world. Taught by Dr. Tamara Feinstein

Learn more about studying history: www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/History

Phi Alpha Theta Inductees

Jennifer Acker
Patrick G. Cerio
Tyler J. Clark
Gerard A. Jemison
Heidi D. Kreckel
Katelyn J. Legacy
Michelle B. Marks
Dianitza A. Mendez
Mahala M. Nyberg
Austin J. Raetz
Robyn Schieble
Cooper D. Sheldon
Cory D. Vaughn

Student Internship

Meet Jackie Kopyt, a Psychology and Communication major, who is our intern working with Dr. Libbie Freed as a part of the Diversity and Inclusion Action Coalition (DIAC) initiative. DIAC “assists SUNY Potsdam in reaching and maintaining the highest excellence with respect to diversity.” Dr. Freed serves as the Co-chair of DIAC’s Professional Development and Curriculum Committee.

Photos top left: Katelyn Legacy (‘16) at Simmons College where she is pursuing her master’s degree in Library Science. Jessica Peña (‘11) as an intern at the Amsterdam Summer School.
The History Association

The History Association provides students with a place and forum to meet and discuss topics in history and current affairs. It brings speakers to campus, organizes trips to sites of historical importance, and hosts mixers and other events. *The Potsdam Historian* is an annual history journal edited and published by the History Association. It features original student work and showcases the diversity of undergraduate research. Check out our past issues at: www.potsdam.edu/academics/AAS/History/historian

Get involved and stay connected. Please email Dr. Shiho Imai at imais@potsdam.edu with any information that you would like to add to our homepage or next newsletter.

SUNY Potsdam

Department of History
44 Pierrepont Ave.
Potsdam, NY 13676