Greetings from the Chair

The spring semester was marked by a variety of events that focused on the importance of history and memory. Please join me in thanking our faculty, students, alumni, and staff who made everything possible and enjoyable.

Dr. Shiho Imai

Honors and Awards

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

- **Departmental Scholars**
  - Zacharey Blackmer
  - John Cristantiello
  - Shannon Mattice
  - Emma Woolley

- **Ilse J. Shaw History Award**
  - Abigail Sexton

- **Roger L. Briggs Award**
  - Nhu Nguyen

- **John Schwaller Award**
  - Emily Massa

- **Walter Wakefield Award**
  - Jennifer Darlak

- **Robert and Katherine Briggs Scholarship**
  - Bailey Durham
  - Rowan Kingsbury
  - Emily Massa

- **Father James Pennock Scholarship**
  - Gerald A. Della Porta

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

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Phi Alpha Theta

The annual Phi Alpha Theta and awards dinner was held at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Potsdam in late March. This year’s event featured home-cooking by Dr. Sheila McIntyre, Dr. Libbie Freed, and our department secretary, Laurie Peary. The guest speaker was Shannon Missick, Ph. D. candidate in History at the University of Albany. She is also the college Sales Rep for W. W. Norton. Founded in 1921 nationally, Phi Alpha Theta is the international honor society in history. We are proud to announce the following inductees: Emily Boozel, John Cristantiello, Jennifer Darlak, Gerald A. Della Porta, Cody Dollinger, Dedan Graveline, Connor J. Murphy, Gemma Small, Joshua Smith, Elise Stetson, John C. Wall III, and Emma Woolley. Departmental Scholars and scholarship winners were also recognized at the Arts and Sciences Honors Convocation in May. Emily Massa, the recipient of the John Schwaller Award and the Robert and Katherine Briggs Scholarship was presented with a signed copy of Dr. Schwaller’s recent book.
Alumni News

Michael Loso ('78) is Associate Professor in the Department of Learning, Technology and Leadership Education at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Dr. Loso earned his M. Ed. at James Madison University and Ed. D. at Nova Southeastern University in Educational Leadership. He worked in K-12 education for 34 years, serving as a high school teacher, middle and high school assistant principal, high school principal, Director of Instruction, and Assistant Superintendent, prior to joining James Madison.

Beverly Santos ('10) has worked in college access for the last ten years. As the Associate Director of College Completion at Uncommon Charter High School, she works with first generation college bound leaders in Brooklyn, NY. She is also a high school delegate for the National Association for College Admissions Counseling. As the 12th grade faculty grade level leader, she facilitates workshops on race, equity, and diversity for faculty members within her school. She serves on the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Board of Trustees.

David Schnell ('83) served as a Navy helicopter pilot for 28 years and retired at the rank of Captain in 2012. He earned an M. A. in National Security Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA, and taught Military Strategy at National Defense University’s Eisenhower School in Washington, D.C. He is currently the Vice President of LRAD Corporation in San Diego, CA, a global leader in advanced mass notification systems.

Meet Dr. Paul Lockhart ('85)

A professor of history at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, Dr. Lockhart received his B.A. in history with a minor in archaeology from Potsdam in 1985.

He went on to pursue his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from Purdue University. Named Brage Golding Distinguished Professor of Research in 2014, he is now in his thirtieth year of teaching. At Wright State, he started a new graduate program in history with a focus on War and Society along with a specialized War and Society/Public History track for students in the Public History M.A. program. Dr. Lockhart’s most recent book on the battle of Bunker Hill came out in 2011. He’s just finished his seventh book, a microhistory of the ordeal of Søren Jensen Quist, a Danish Lutheran parson who was wrongly convicted of, and executed for, murder in 1626. His eighth book on Western military technology from 1400 to 1945 is due to appear in print later this year. In his email update, he mentions Dr. Art Johnson as one of the “best mentors a directionless freshman student like myself could have bumped into.” He writes, “It’s great to see – vicariously, through the newsletter – the department doing so much to further the careers of young scholars still, even if the faculty is a different one, even if nearly thirty-four years have passed since I graduate there.” Thank you!

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Featured Alumni

Dr. Bryan K. Herman ('03) returned to Potsdam to give a talk for the School of Education and Professional Studies’ Disciplined Inquiry in Education Series. The title of his talk was “Science and Culture on the Soviet Screen: Russian and Member Republic Biographical Films during the Early Cold War, 1946-1953.” Bryan received his Ph.D. in History at the University of Albany this spring.
Three Students from Dr. Gaylynn Welch’s “History of New York State” (Fall, 2017) have publications in the first installment of the Online Biographical Dictionary of the Woman Suffrage Movement in the United States. Emily Lemen wrote a biography of Helen E. Christian; Matt Saddlemire of Alice Wiley Seay; and Ciara VanCour of Helen A. Cook. Christian, Seay, and Cook were African-American suffragists from New York. Edited and compiled by Thomas Dublin, as part of the online database and journal, *Women and Social Movements in the United States*, and published by Alexander Street, the online biographical dictionary features the work of hundreds of volunteers who have researched, written, copyedited, and fact checked the first 950 biographical sketches. By June 2021, the project expects to cover some 3,300 suffragists, commemorating the centennial of the ratification of the 19th amendment.

**Faculty News**

The Honors program surprised Dr. Sheila McIntyre with the Honors Professor of the Year award at its annual awards ceremony in May. Senior honors students from history were recognized at the event, including Lauren Czyzewski, Heidi Kreckel, Shannon Mattice, and Emma Woolley.

**At the Museum**

Dr. Thomas Baker’s North Country Transcription course was featured in SUNY Potsdam’s youtube video. Captioned “History Research with Dr. Tom Baker,” it introduces the hands-on history project where his students transcribe courtship letters from the 1800s. The five student participants, Tabitha Brown, Rebecca Carlin, Bailey Durham, Ellen Farney, and Rowan Kingsbury, presented their findings at the Learning and Research Fair in April. Dr. Sheila McIntyre also served as the project’s faculty advisor. This is Dr. Baker’s second transcription project, where Zachary Blackmer and Emma Woolley transcribed John Raymond’s Civil War letters last fall. They, too, prepared an interpretive poster for the Fair.

Photos (Top): Dr. Thomas Baker’s transcription class with Erin Cheney (’13), museum staff, at the Potsdam Public Museum. (Below) Dr. Steven Stannish’s “Fighting Words: History and Story” class with Mimi Van Deusen, Museum Curator and Director.

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

A special thanks to our donors who took part in this year’s Charter Day Challenge, March 25-31. A matching gift doubles your donation during the campaign. You may also specify the history department as the recipient of your gift.

Giving to Potsdam: www.potsdam.edu/giving
Faculty Presentations

Dr. Kevin Smith gave a talk for Days of Reflection: Education for Racial Equality and Racial Justice, Spring 2019. Titled, “The Radicalism of Martin Luther King, Jr.,” Dr. Smith explored Dr. King’s contribution beyond civil rights, including class activism and the anti-war movement.

Dr. Gaylynn Welch was the guest speaker at this year’s Minerva Spring Tea hosted by the School of Education Alumni Association. Dr. Welch dressed in white in keeping with the talk’s suffrage theme. Her New York State History student and history major, Brianna Colon, presented a poster on the role of African American women suffragists.

Practicing Public History

Students in Dr. M. J. Heisey’s “Practicing Public History” took part in bringing 60 Chilean *arpilleras* or narrative appliques to light at the Gibson Gallery, February 14-March 25. Sewn by women during the military dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, the detailed patchworks document their struggles for survival and democracy. Chile’s natural beauty as well as communal ovens and soup kitchens are stitched into scenes of everyday resistance. The “Sewn in Protest” exhibit was followed by a collaborative mural project with renowned Chilean artist, Francisco Letelier. History majors Jennifer Darlak and Emma Woolley worked with Art and Spanish students to assist Letelier with research and painting. The exhibit’s opening gala and closing fiesta was accompanied by food and music, including a performance by the Crane Latin Ensemble.

History Association Events

The History Association has been reactivated! This May, it successfully hosted a mixer and Seminar Night. (Top) History Association President, Shannon Mattice, presented her seminar paper on medical commentary on smallpox in 17th century England and shared her Presidential Scholars work on the power of Dutch widowhood in the New Netherlands. Her project won the Provost’s Award for Excellence in Student Research. She will start her M.A. in history at the University of Buffalo this fall. (Below) Reno Lenci (’18) was back in Satterlee Hall to talk about his seminar experience. He is now a graduate student in Potsdam’s Master’s in Student Teaching (MST) program. The department looks forward to many more of these events under its incoming President, Ellen Farney.

We love to hear from you. Please email Dr. Shiho Imai at imais@potsdam.edu or Laurie Peary at pearyll@potsdam.edu with any info and updates for our homepage or newsletter.