

History Department Newsletter

Fall 2008

"And the Clio goes to. . ."

Several history department faculty members have received impressive awards of late. **Kelly DeVries** was honored with the Nachbahr Award, bestowed on him by the Center for the Humanities in recognition of his outstanding scholarly contributions. With more books to his name than there are people on the committees granting the award, the Nachbahr represents something of a scholarly lifetime achievement award for one of our most prolific colleagues. Kelly received the award and gave a stimulating address at the College Honors Convocation in September. **Jack Breihan** received an actual lifetime achievement award, the John McGrain Lifetime Achievement Award from the Baltimore County Historic Trust. Jack was recognized for his decades of energetic and valuable work in local history and historic preservation. Despite the Trust's effort to distract him from the task at hand with a valedictory award, Jack will continue his notable efforts protect the physical artifacts of Baltimore history and to investigate the lives of its past citizens. **Elizabeth Schmidt's** acclaimed examination of the Guinean independence movement, *Mobilizing the Masses: Gender, Ethnicity, and Class in the Nationalist Movement in Guinea, 1939-1958*, won the Alpha Sigma Nu Book Award in history for scholarly books published in 2005-2007. Administered by the Jesuit honors society, the Alpha Sigma Nu competition honors the best scholarly work produced by a faculty member at a Jesuit college or university. Betsy's award, according to the Dean, is the first such recognition for a Loyola faculty member. Excelsior!

Class Consciousness: New Classes for Spring 2008

Students should note that two new courses will be offered by history department faculty this spring semester. After writing the primary textbook on the subject, **Keith Schoppa** will inaugurate *HS 371: East Asia and the Modern World*. The course will examine the distinctive yet often overlapping histories of China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam over the last three hundred years. **Angela Leonard** has prepared a new special topics course, *HS 424: Race, Place, and Memory in American History*. A course description is available in the Loyola catalogue.

"And if California slides into the ocean, like the mystics and statistics say it will. . ."

Chances are that Loyola faculty will be present delivering scholarly papers, some of them highlighting the role of calamity in human history. **Matt Mulcahy** dared to discuss the ravages of the Port Royal earthquake to a sensitive audience of scholars in temblor-prone southern California at the luminous Huntington Library. He then visited still-damaged New Orleans to comment on a series of papers on Hurricane Katrina. If he asks to come over to your house, think twice. **Keith Schoppa** brought the topics of bubonic plague in the Sino-Japanese War and refugees to Valparaiso University in Indiana. Perhaps to cleanse his palate, he later flew to Honolulu to preside over a conference of international scholars he had planned, organized, and managed for the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China. Apparently feeling too idle, he also gave another paper on refugees. In scholarly service to one or more of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, **Kelly DeVries** scampered across Europe and nearby continents presenting numerous papers on weaponry and war, **Jack Breihan** toured the Civil War battleground of Gettysburg with renowned Princeton historian James McPherson and other elite refugees from Old Nassau, while **Steve Hughes** discussed "The Politics of the Sword" at a formal presentation of his recent book of the same name at the Biblioteca Nazionale in Rome.

Bucking the trend of disaster and violence, other Loyola history faculty examined the uneven results of reform and collective action. **Elizabeth Schmidt** journeyed to South Africa and, at the University of KwaZulu Natal, presented a paper on anti-colonial nationalism in French West Africa. Just a week ago, she appeared in the equally exotic locale of Athens, Ohio to deliver a keynote presentation at Ohio University's conference, "Perspectives on African Decolonization: African Intellectuals and Decolonization." Following the gentle way, **Fr. Charles Borges, S.J.** studied Jesuit missions in Goa, India and visited Delhi, Bangalore, and Mumbai to prepare for the Loyola winter tour to India that he leads. **Tom Pegram** will participate in a roundtable discussion of the "class of '79," a group of historians who transformed the scholarly discussion of alcohol, temperance, and prohibition, in New York this January at the

Free Gas!

Well, **free coffee and desserts** (fuel for life) to be had at the History Department's Fall Coffeehouse. Set aside **Monday, October 20** and come to the **Evergreen Cafe** between **7:00 and 8:30** to eat, drink, and talk history with faculty and fellow students. See if four brownies provide the same nutrition as a well-balanced meal. Discover if Jane Edwards can really fly. Count noses to see if anyone was left behind at the Renaissance Festival. Investigate whether Phi Alpha Theta has "Greek" status. Find out what's so special about Special Topics courses.

American Historical Association meetings. The jury is out on whether prohibition should be placed in the category of calamity or reform.

When Ordinary Papers are not Enough . . .

Several history majors are hard at work on a senior Honors thesis. **Stephen Lloyd** is working with Professor Schmidt and is writing about American missionaries in Liberia, both European- and African-American. **Cristina Ambroselli** is exploring a Slavic mining community in the bituminous coal and coke region of southwest Pennsylvania in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She is working with Professors Hughes and Cheape. **Matt Kahn** is investigating U.S. atrocities in the Philippines, 1898-1907 under the direction of Professors Cheape and Pegram. **Stephanie Leach** is writing on issues of identity and nationalism in Ireland culminating in the 1916 Easter Uprising. Professors Leonard and Edwards are directing her thesis. Finally, **Erin Bacon** is researching the post World War I "Magyarization" program in Hungary. She is working with Professor Breihan. Thesis work requires a great deal of time and dedication, but it is tremendously rewarding. Students must have a 3.7 GPA in history, and 3.0 overall. Invitations to eligible juniors will be sent out in January. If you are interested, talk to these students or to a professor about the experience.

Publishing in our Parish

The Loyola history department maintained its commitment to high-quality teaching and active scholarship with another round of scholarly publication and writing. **Charles Borges** has chapters on Goan Muslims and Jesuit missions in India slated for publication this year in books from Oxford University Press and Chieti. He has also published the foreword to a study of Jose Inacio Candido de Loyola. He looks forward to a sabbatical leave to complete a book on Catholic orders active in India. **Keith Schoppa** spent his spring leave at the University of California's East Asia library and at his overheated computer, from which he pounded out seven (!) chapters of his scholarly study of social and psychological displacement during the Sino-Japanese War, 1937-1945. Before his keyboard cooled after completion of his dueling book, **Steve Hughes** wrote articles on Italian Swiss nationalism and the relationship between dueling and right wing politics in twentieth-century Italy, both of which are scheduled for publication this fall. **Matt**

Lecture: Ending the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade

2008 is the bicentennial of the abolition of the trans-Atlantic slave trade to the United States. To mark the event, **Professor Philip Morgan** from The Johns Hopkins University will deliver a lecture examining the abolition of the Danish slave trade in 1802, the abolition of the British slave trade in 1807, and the end of the U.S. slave trade in 1808. The lecture is scheduled tentatively for the first week in December. More specific details will be announced soon.

Mulcahy will publish "The Port Royal Earthquake and the World of Wonders in Seventeenth-Century Jamaica" this month in *Early American Studies*. Matt's *Hurricanes and Society in the British Greater Caribbean* has been issued in a paperback edition. Flaunting his polymathic abilities, **Jack Breihan** published an article on the Cherry Hill neighborhood in an edited volume on *The Gwynns Falls*; published a second piece in *DOCUMOM Newsletter*, which we and Philip Johnson know is the voice of the modern movement in architecture; and wrote a review article on "Airport History" for the *Journal of Urban History*. Leslie Nielsen let it be known that all of us were counting on Jack to steer the article safely onto the tarmac. Other faculty members are so fixated on their work that they did not have time to provide updates.

Middle East comes to the Mid-Atlantic

Committee members are busily working as the history department conducts its first search for a new faculty position in nearly a decade. At the American Historical Association meeting in New York over the Christmas break, we will be interviewing candidates to teach modern Middle Eastern history at Loyola. Look in the spring for announcements of campus visits by the finalists for the job. You may meet the professor who will teach your class next year. We look forward to offering a slate of new upper division Middle East classes beginning next academic year.

Roll Call

Fall semester brings some faculty members back on campus, takes others away, and introduces some new faces. **Angela Leonard** is back after a year spent at Oxford University. **Keith Schoppa** also returns after a spring sabbatical leave. **Bill Donovan** is away for the fall semester, but should return in the spring. The expanded freshman class was accompanied by a number of new HS 101 instructors. **Mark Theodorson** is a Ph.D. from Keele University in England. Mark's dissertation topic was "Policing and Internal Security in Northern Ireland, 1920-1939." **Nick Schlosser** is, even as we go to press, completing his Ph.D. at the University of Maryland. The topic is "The Berlin Radio War: Broadcasting and the Shaping of Political Culture in Cold War Berlin, 1945-1961." **Matt Hudock** is completing his Ph.D. at the University of Delaware. Veteran 101 instructors **Rocky Rockefeller** and **Chris Gardner** are back in the trenches this fall. We appreciate their expertise and their contributions to history at Loyola.

Don't forget to vote on November 4th (a reminder from our political historian) and look out for a "News and Nuance" event sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta.

Look for the return of the Pig of Knowledge in our next issue.
