

History Department Newsletter

Spring 2009

DEPARTMENT WELCOMES NEW PROFESSOR, ADDS NEW COURSES

In a time of straitened circumstances and belt-tightening, Loyola's history department is happy to announce several opportunities for students to explore new options and expand their horizons. We are thrilled to introduce our new assistant professor of Middle East history, **Dr. Sara Scalenghe**. Dr. Scalenghe comes to us from Indiana University, where she was an assistant professor in the departments of history and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures. She did her undergraduate degree at the University of London and earned her Ph.D. at Georgetown University. Her pioneering book on the history of disability in the Middle East, to be published by Cambridge University Press, is nearing completion. Her plans for future research include studies of Italian colonialism in Libya and the social and religious content of Muslim sermons in the nineteenth century. This admirable sweep in scholarly attention will be complemented by a range of courses extending from *The Making of the Modern Middle East* to *Women and Gender in the Middle East*. Next fall (2009), she will offer **HS 393: *The Making of the Modern Middle East***. The course will meet on T/Th, 4:30-5:45. The course is not listed in the fall coursebook but will be posted online and will be open for registration.

We should also remind you that the Big Board, our list of current and upcoming course offerings, is available on the history department website. Plan out your seminars, identify your special topics courses, and prepare your entire history department schedules in advance. See the appearance of new courses, such as Dr. Martha Taylor's proposed diversity course entitled ***Race, Culture and Colonialism in Ancient Greece***. Notice when favorite professors are scheduled to be on leave. Rarely can a historian predict the future, so take advantage of the opportunity.

NEW COURSE! Fall 2009

HS 393: *The Making of the Modern Middle East* T/Th 4:30-5:45

Conceived as an introduction to the history of the modern Middle East, this course will examine the political, economic, social, and cultural institutions and forces that have most profoundly affected the region in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The emphasis throughout will be on identifying the ways in which specific events and long-term processes have informed social and political reality in the contemporary Middle East. We will focus our study on a number of significant political, social, economic and cultural developments and movements, including (but not limited to): the rise and formation of modern nation states, the role of imperialist and colonial powers in the region, the emergence of nationalism, regional conflicts, the rise of Islamism, and the evolution of ethnic, class, and gender identities. Class meetings will consist of lectures, discussions, and the occasional film screening.

SEE THE SNAKE, SIGN THE PLEDGE, JOIN PHI ALPHA THETA

Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, will be holding its annual induction ceremony in April (featuring the cold-blooded creature mentioned in the headline). That in itself is a sight to behold, but membership in Phi Alpha Theta at Loyola also puts you in contact with like-minded history students and affirms your strong performance in history courses.

Membership in PAT is **not restricted to history majors or minors**. If you have taken at least 12 credit hours in history (3 courses, including HS 101 and AP credit accepted at Loyola) and maintained a GPA of 3.1 or higher in history courses and a GPA of 3.0 or higher in two-thirds of your remaining courses (yes, you can drop the lower third of your grades from non-history courses), then you are eligible for membership.

LEARN FROM STUDENTS, SUPPORT YOUR FRIENDS

Turn the tables on the faculty! Come see your friends and peers present their research findings at the revived history department student colloquium. Senior history majors who have been doing outstanding work on their thesis projects will provide short summaries of their research. Come see what it's like on the other side of the podium and help congratulate **Stephanie Leach, Stephen Lloyd, and Matt Kahn**, and learn a little bit about their projects. Look for an announcement of the time and date later in the semester.

To enter into the mysteries of Phi Alpha Theta, bring an unofficial copy of your transcript with an attached (functional) cell phone number to HU 308, the exotic and wonderful lair of **Professor Jane Edwards**, Phi Alpha Theta faculty advisor. If Professor Edwards is currently in material form, you can hand her the information, otherwise slip it under the door. Assistance can also be rendered by **Amanda Rossi**, president of the chapter. Contact Amanda (who always has her feet on the ground) at asrossi@loyola.edu.

YOU WANT JOBS? WE'VE GOT JOBS (OR AT LEAST A DATABASE OF HELPFUL ALUMNI)

Our efficient chair has compiled a database of recent Loyola history alumni who are willing to talk to current history majors and minors about productive post-Loyola life. Many of them used their history majors to find careers, and not always in specialties you would expect. Others have successfully completed graduate study in law and other fields. Currently at twenty-five names and growing, the database is a great resource. Many in the database live and work in the Baltimore-Washington area, but others are in New York, Philadelphia, Memphis, Houston, and California. To access the database, go to the history department webpage and click on the "careers" link. You will need to enter your full Loyola email address and your password. Be sure to mention to any alumni that you found their names and email addresses on the department database. Please contact Dr. Mulcahy if you encounter any problems.

HISTORY RESEARCHERS KEEP ON TRUCKIN'

Normally, serious scholars don't model their work habits on hippie bands like the Grateful Dead, but it must be said that Loyola's historians have continued their collective long, strange trip of research, travel, and publication. **Dr. Martha Taylor**, our colleague in Classics and History, is awaiting the publication of her second book, *Thucydides, Pericles and the Idea of Athens in the Peloponnesian War*, later this year. It will appear under the imprint of the prestigious Cambridge University Press. **Dr. Elizabeth Schmidt** continues to garner honors for her work on Guinean independence. Her second book from this project, *Cold War and Decolonization in Guinea, 1946-1958*, won the 2008 Best Book Award of the African Politics Conference Group, an affiliate of the American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, and African Studies Association. Betsy also found time while interviewing candidates for the Middle East position at the American Historical Association meetings in New York to present a scholarly paper at the conference. Another presentation will take place this month at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Matthew Mulcahy, in addition to running our department with diligence and skill, also published his newest study, "The Port Royal Earthquake and the World of Wonders in Seventeenth-Century Jamaica," in the fall 2008 number of *Early American Studies*. **Dr. Jack Breihan** continues to work productively across the frontiers of academic and public history. He selected the photographs and wrote the captions for a volume entitled *Maryland Aviation*, published by Arcadia Press. Jack will give a talk and sign copies of the volume at the Maryland Aviation Museum in Middle River on the evening of 6 April. **Dr. Keith Schoppa** has been bouncing between his keyboard and various spots up and down the Atlantic seaboard giving scholarly talks and working on a series of research projects. **Dr. Kelly DeVries**, who considers a flight to England a commute by this point in his career, has continued his customary whirlwind of travel, research, and scholarly writing. **Fr. Charles Borges** will be on sabbatical in India next academic year, working on his scholarly study of religious orders in India.

Dr. Thomas Pegram contributed to a panel on historians of alcohol at the American Historical Association meetings in January. The initial tasting went well and the papers from the session will be published late in the year in *The Social History of Alcohol and Drugs*, a journal in which the Grateful Dead may show some interest, but which is nevertheless a sober academic publication. **Dr. Steven Hughes** is scheduled to jet off to Paris to present research on nationalism in an Italian-speaking Swiss canton. He assures us that this is work rather than leisure, although Herbert Marcuse may consider this distinction a bourgeois affectation. The rest of the history faculty are also active with their busy rounds of research, travel, and scholarly productivity.

Mark Your Calendars! History Department Picnic

Monday, April 27 – 5:00-6:30 PM

The fried chicken is back on the Quad. You know the drill – bring a napkin.