



Today & Yesterday

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 36 Summer 2012

Professors' innovative use of primary sources

By Ali McCracken

Primary sources are the most important tool used by historians to develop an understanding of past events. Traditionally, historians have used written primary sources, such as diaries, newspapers, and letters, to reconstruct the past. Although these sources are important, Illinois State University history professors Patrice Olsen, Georgia Tsouvala, and Issam Nassar also utilize innovative primary sources in their work. Such inventive sources have allowed these professors to advance new interpretations in their current research projects and engage students in the classroom. Associate professor of Latin American history **Patrice Olsen** is in the process of compiling a book about street graffiti in Argentina. Olsen has been teaching the Dirty War of Argentina since her time as a graduate student at Penn State in 1995. It was her dream to see the country in person. She was able to visit Argentina one summer following a visit in Peru for Illinois State's annual human rights seminar.

While walking around the streets of Argentina with a group of her students, Olsen was flooded with graffiti images memorializing those who disappeared in the Dirty War. She was inspired and thought, "It was as if the people were still there so it was very profound and I thought, 'I want to study this.'" Olsen began taking photographs of the street graffiti. She is a talented photographer and her work has been published in various texts and multimedia forms.



Graffiti in Argentina

The street graffiti is loaded with emotions. The "non-art art form," as Olsen calls it, first began as a reaction to the economic collapse of Argentina in 2001. There are images reacting to globalization. The artists utilize corporate logos to make political statements. Images memorializing the lives lost during the Dirty War began appearing as well. "Stencil art is an unofficial underground commemoration of lives lost and lack of government impunity. It is a desire for justice. It is snarky, very political, cheerful, and very moving." Artists stencil images upon previous images other artists stenciled. This creates a vibrant montage of images.

The stencil art covers the buildings in the government district of Buenos Aires. It is an acceptable form of expression, which is surprising in relation to where it is being drawn. During the dictatorship, you could be shot for simply holding a spray can. The present freedom of expression has allowed Argentines to speak about political issues and remember loved ones who disappeared in a unique and expressive way.

Olsen utilizes the images in her class as often as possible. Each trip she takes several thousand images. Out of those images, she compiles a presentation of about 100 images. The program she uses allows her to make a montage of images and give the students the feeling that they are in the streets of Buenos Aires. She hopes her students feel as if they just got off the subway and were seeing the images for the first time. She wants them to feel those same emotions she felt the first time she saw the images.

The focus of Olsen's research is how the atrocities related to human rights violations under the dictatorship from 1976–1983 have been remembered by the Argentine people. Olsen raises the question, "How do you have a memorial for those who have no grave?" Olsen researched official commemorations

such as monuments and days of remembrance. The focus of her book is the unofficial non-state sponsored commemorations that have been started by the people. The art-form has not been studied thoroughly and not from an artist's point of view. Olsen's vast knowledge of the Dirty War and her talent in photography is ideal for studying the topic. Olsen also plans on including images with a similar theme from Chile and Peru.

Assistant professor of ancient history **Georgia Tsouvala** is studying ancient inscriptions (writings on stone) for her project, which focuses on the membership of women in ancient gymnasias and wrestling schools in Roman Greece. The literary evidence is limited on the topic, so inscriptions provide a glimpse into an aspect of women's lives that has escaped scholars thus far.

The idea for this project unexpectedly came out of Tsouvala's dissertation. While researching her dissertation, Tsouvala found an inscription in a 19th century book that listed a woman's name among 66 male names in



Tsouvala in Greece

a gymnasiarchal membership list. In the scholarship about gymnasias, there was no evidence of women's involvement. As such, historians traditionally have interpreted the gymnasium as a male dominated institution in ancient Greece. Tsouvala was inspired by the inscription and began researching to find more instances of women's involvement in the gymnasium. Four years later, Tsouvala has found two additional inscriptions that make it clear that women were members of gymnasias during the

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Letter from the chair, Anthony Crubaugh

Having three of Illinois State's 15 Bone Scholars topped, but by no means exhausted, this year's list of History student accomplishments. Other noteworthy achievements included Seth Isaacson's receipt of the Best Graduate Paper Award at the regional Phi Alpha Theta conference; Simon Rodriguez's acceptance into a Fulbright Study Abroad summer program in Mexico; Doris Weil's and Sara Miner's delivery of scholarly papers at professional conferences in Washington, D.C. and Los Angeles, respectively; and Kevin Schrop's winning of a College of Arts and Sciences scholarship in order to take up a summer internship at Washington's Naval Heritage and Command Center.

Significantly, the latter four students will have received assistance from the Department's Excellence Fund in order to finance their educational travel. Thus are we reminded (not that we needed any reminding!) of how the generosity of alumni and friends enhances both students' experiences in the department and our ability to recruit and retain outstanding people in the program. That basic fact was reinforced not only on May 1, when we honored 19 worthy students at the awards ceremony and bestowed upon them approximately \$32,000 in scholarships, but also throughout the semester. Generous gifts, for example, allowed Georgia Tsouvala to take her ancient history classes to a production of *Julius Caesar* and to the Spurlock Museum at the University of Illinois, Urbana.

While I thank alumni and friends for their generosity, I also stress that there exist numerous ways in which people can help—without spending a penny—to insure the department's vibrancy through the recruitment and retention of talented students. **Show your pride** in Illinois State's Department of History. Having alumni praise their education and tell stories to potential students about one-on-one instruction with inspiring faculty members are the most effective forms of recruitment. **Let us feature you.** Whether in the newsletter or on our website, testimonials from successful and interesting alumni provide specific evidence that we produce quality graduates. Particularly valuable are "what I did with my history degree" stories from non-teachers. **Speak to our students.** Department-sponsored lectures, meetings of the History Club, and Homecoming and Alumni Weekend are some venues at which you could share your interests in history, unique perspectives on the field, job search strategies, and so on. **Target Illinois State University if you are seeking employees or history-related interns.** We can put you in contact with students seeking employment or the benefits of a meaningful internship opportunity.

While I opened with the mention of student achievements, the rest of the newsletter gives ample evidence of impressive faculty and staff accomplishments in what was a strong year for the History Department. Thanks very much for your support!

Comings and goings

This fall the Department of History welcomed **Sudipa Topdar**, an

expert on South Asia. Topdar received her bachelor's in history from Lady Shri Ram College, Delhi University; her M.Phil and M.A. in modern Indian history from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; and her Ph.D. in history from the University

of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Her dissertation was titled "Knowledge and Governance: Political

Socialization of the Indian Child within Colonial Schooling and Nationalist Contestations in India (1870–1925)." She is working on a book manuscript based on her doctoral dissertation.

Since arriving at Illinois State, she has offered History 104 (Introduction to Indian Civilization), History 267 (History of Modern South Asia), History 300 (Senior Seminar titled Gandhi: The Man behind the Mahatma), and History 307 (Popular Culture and British Empire). Topdar commented that she has "loved the experience here." She is "passionate about introducing my students to a part of the world about which many may not have prior knowledge and a region which is emerging as a global economic

force... My teaching experience becomes especially gratifying when by the end of the term students tell me that they learned a lot about South Asia."

A native of India, Topdar was born in the city of Calcutta and raised in Lucknow and Delhi. She has been based in the United States since arriving for graduate school. In her spare time she loves to travel, catch up with friends, and try new recipes.



Sudipa Topdar

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Alumni spotlight: Jerry Cook

By Linda Spencer

Jerry Cook '95 just completed his first year as principal of Elgin High School. While being the principal is a new experience, Cook has been involved in education for 17 years. Although most of those years were spent in Elgin, his experience as an educator also has led him across the nation. In 2003, his school district offered a one- or two-year leave of absence. Cook and his wife decided to pursue their dream of living in California. He was hired to teach social studies, economics, and government near Los Angeles. His school included students who were bussed in from South Central Los Angeles. While he loved seeing the ocean from his school and called it “a great experience,” his family back home and the cost of living in California caused Cook and his wife to decide it was time to return to Elgin. Upon his return, Cook attended Northern Illinois University where he earned his Type 75 Certification.

After receiving his certification, Cook went into administration in School District U46, which includes Elgin High School. The oldest continuously existing high school in Illinois, Elgin High School has an enrollment of more than 2,300 students. The school’s motto is “education for all.” Spanish-speaking students and refugees from Southeast Asia are welcomed. Indeed, 70 percent of the school’s population is Latino/a. As principal, Cook oversees a bilingual campus, which includes publishing his newsletter in both English and Spanish and offering bilingual seminars for parents.

Cook remarked that he became interested in education as a result of a job he had in the library during his

junior year in high school. He knew that Illinois State University would offer him the best training to achieve his goal. He says of his history-social sciences education degree, “I am indebted to ISU and all of its fine professors and staff for the wonderful support and education they provided throughout my four years in school. In addition, Dr. Singer and Mr. Lewinski played a major part in my success as a teacher, which has enabled me to take the next step in becoming a principal.” He says his classes were challenging with engaging professors who helped him hone his writing skills and taught him how to think critically. He loved Illinois State University, where he was fully involved in student life, participating in the Honors Program and serving as an R.A. in Manchester Hall.

When asked what advice he would give to current students, Cook says they should take advantage of the academics at Illinois State University and form relationships with their professors. He also encourages them to challenge themselves to get past their preconceived ideas about history and society, and question what is happening and why.



Jerry Cook

Alum inducted into CAS Hall of Fame

By Linda Spencer

This spring one of our own, Darrel Sutter, joined the membership of the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame. Induction is an honor



Department Chair, Anthony Crubaugh with Darrel Sutter at CAS Hall of Fame reception

bestowed on current, past, or honorary members of the arts and sciences community.

Sutter graduated from Illinois State University in 1960 with a degree in social science education. He then taught at Roanoke-Benson High School until 1995 and at Lincoln College until 2005. In 2009, Sutter established a scholarship in the Department of History to assist history-social sciences education majors with a demonstrated financial need. There is a lot we could say about Sutter and what he gives back

to the University and the department, but it is best said by former student Lew Sauder '89, posting the following on his blog:

“I owe my most influential experiences from high school to a gentleman named Darrel A. Sutter. Mr. Sutter taught American history, economics, and sociology at Roanoke-Benson High School. But he educated us in much more than those subjects.

Teaching was his life. You could see the excitement on his face and in his voice when someone “got it.”

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We recently asked our alumni donors what they are doing now, how their history degree had an impact on their lives, and why they support the Department of History. The following is what some of them shared with us.

Don Cavallini, M.A. '67, D.A. '80, part-time archivist and adjunct professor of history at Heartland Community College and McLean County Board Member stated, "I gained so much from ISU. It is payback time!"

Michael Payne, M.S. '67, has retired and stated, "My profession/career has been in insurance and management—a long way from history. My 'training' via ISU history (then social sciences) gave me writing, research, and analytical skills that were essential to doing what I did."

Lt. Col. Stan Dilley, United States Air Force, '71 is retired and shared "I think history makes me think more internationally. It gave me a well-rounded foundation to succeed in anything I did later on."

Ed Paesel '71, M.S. '73, executive director, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, stays connected to the department "to give back to ISU for the education I received."

Samuel Petty '71 retired after 25 years with the Central IL Light Company in various management positions. He says, "I feel history is very important and necessary for all of our citizenry."

Camilla A. Quinn, M.S. '90, is writing a Civil War novel and said "The history master's program at ISU offered me the flexibility to immerse myself in the area of history I loved best."

Steve DePasquale '91, M.A. '93, history professor at Kankakee Community College, shares "It taught me the value of hard work. It showed me how important standards and rigor are. It prepared me to be a teacher through example."

Joe Genzel '03, associate editor for *Wildfowl* and *Gun Dog* magazines, said "I remember having great teachers at ISU and hope my contributions help continue that."

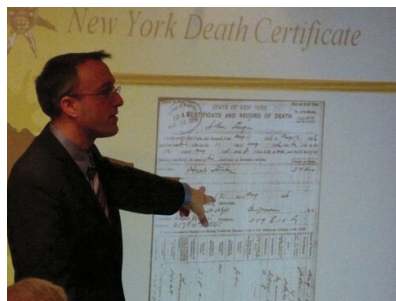
Hannah Radostits '10, media-tech specialist at 21st Century Preparatory School, said "I knew it was going to be tough because of the economy, but if my teachers helped with anything, it was how to overcome hardship and never lose confidence."

To read more comments from other alumni, check out the department website, History.IllinoisState.edu.

Visiting professor travels from Ankara, Turkey

By Ali McCracken

The History Department is pleased to host this year's visiting professor Edward (Ted) Kohn, an assistant professor of history and chair of the



Kohn presenting at Milner Library

Department of American Culture and Literature at Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. Professor Kohn received a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship, which allowed him to spend a year researching his current project on Theodore Roosevelt and New York.

A native of Highland Park, Kohn decided to spend his yearlong Fulbright fellowship at Illinois State after meeting ISU History Professor Alan Lessoff in Turkey. Lessoff spent last year as a Fulbright Scholarship recipient at Bilkent University. Kohn's friendship with Lessoff prompted him to do his own Fulbright research at Illinois State University. He is very much appreciative for Illinois State hosting him, stating "Many thanks to ISU for giving me the time to do my work."

Kohn's new research examines the popular image of Theodore Roosevelt. The purpose of his book "is to debunk this myth that he was somehow a Western figure, a cowboy, cattle rancher. He was born and raised in New York. His political career was in New York. Those are the most important things about him. They were shaped in New York and he helped shape the city in important ways too."

Kohn has been researching Theodore Roosevelt for approximately eight years. Indeed, his new project about the image of Theodore Roosevelt builds on his most recent book, *Hot Time in the Old Town: The Great Heat Wave of 1896 and the Making of Theodore Roosevelt*. *Hot Time* has earned Kohn much media attention. *History News Network* named him a "Top Young Historian" in 2007. He also has made several appearances on television and radio shows for his work, including a spot on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. Kohn called *The Daily Show* "a very surreal experience," and jokes that "I'll remember it forever even if it is the high point of my career..." Kohn presented his work *Hot Time in the Old Town* to the public on the Illinois State University campus in both the fall and spring.

ISU student and grandfather attend Land of Lincoln Honor Flight

By Ali McCracken

Illinois State University senior Matt Butcher shared a once in a lifetime experience with his grandfather, Bill Dunbar, on May 10, 2011. Butcher



Matt Butcher '12 with his grandfather, Bill Dunbar in Washington, D.C.

attended the Land of Lincoln Honor Flight to Washington D.C. with his grandfather, who was being honored for his service as a radio operator in the field artillery during WWII. The Honor Flight provides an opportunity for WWII veterans to visit Washington, D.C., and see the WWII memorial, the newest addition to the Mall.

The experience was invaluable for Dunbar. The trip reminded him of his service during the war and the friendships that he made. According to Dunbar, "The friendships that you form in a unit like that last a lifetime. That camaraderie and that shared experience figured into this

Honor Flight. When we were there at the WWII memorial, I felt at home because I was surrounded by guys that went through the same thing."

In addition to the emotional reunion, the trip was full of surprises for Dunbar, including "mail call" on the plane ride home, which reminded veterans of the coveted moment when they received mail from loved ones back home during the war.

Butcher also found the Honor Flight to be very memorable, especially his visit to the WWII memorial. Most important, he enjoyed seeing how much the veterans appreciated the experience. He stated, "The fact that there were 75 to 80 WWII vets there, most of them seeing the WWII Memorial for the first time... just seeing that, and knowing what they've gone through

and just seeing their eyes and how much they enjoyed it, that was very neat to see."

The Honor Flight was perfect for both Butcher and his grandfather, as they both share a love of history. Butcher grew up hearing stories about his grandfather's experience in WWII, which fueled his interest in history. Indeed, Butcher double-majored in history and political science.

In addition to inspiring his grandson's love of history, Dunbar continues to share his knowledge about

WWII with the Bloomington-Normal community. He gives speeches to Illinois State University history classes about WWII, as well as to local grade schools and high schools. In all of his talks, Dunbar stresses the importance of history. He believes that "if we don't pay attention to history, we will make mistakes that could have been avoided. Those who ignore history are doomed to repeat it. It is very instructive and it's very interesting. The first thing that you see, I believe, is that human nature doesn't change from one generation to the other. You can be entertained by it, you can be instructed by it. It is a very valuable study."

The Land of Lincoln Honor Flight will be a memorable part of Butcher and Dunbar's history. As Butcher stated, "It is truly a once in a lifetime experience." The Honor Flight provided an opportunity for Butcher to honor his grandfather and other veterans for their service in WWII, as well as to express their shared love of history.



Faculty accomplishments

Agbenyega Adedze edits the West African Museums Programme Bulletin and is a member of the World Bank African Diaspora Mobilization Committee.

Roger Biles gave invited talks on his book, *The Fate of Cities*, at Oxford, Cambridge, and University of London.

Kyle Ciani spoke at the National Archives as part of a forum on The National Woman's Party and Visual Propaganda.

Ray Clemens organized the History of the Book seminar at the Newberry Library.

Linda Clemmons gave the keynote address, "'To Put God's Thoughts into Their Speech': Antebellum Missions, Race and the 'Civilization' of the Dakota Language," at the 8th Annual Loyola University Chicago History Graduate Student Conference.

Anthony Crubaugh published a book chapter, "Feudalism," in William Doyle, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of the Ancien Régime* (Oxford University Press, 2012), 219-35.

Andrew Hartman was elected president of the U.S. Society for Intellectual History.

Richard Hughes published a peer-reviewed article, "Preparing History Teachers and Scholars?: Content Exams and Teacher Certification in the Age of Accountability," in *The Councilor* 72 (2011): 1-14.

Ross Kennedy published a review essay, "Presidents and the Progressive Era: Two New Views of Taft and Wilson" in *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 10:3 (July 2011), 369-74.

Alan Lessoff gave a public address titled, "Was There a Gilded Age? Was There a Progressive Era?," as part of the Civic Education Program at the McConnell Center at the University of Louisville.

Issam Nassar was named research director at the Arab Image Foundation. Nassar was also accepted into an NEH Summer Seminar in Washington, D.C., on "WWI in the Middle East."

Monica Noraian organized and spoke at the 2012 Illinois Council for the Social Studies Spring Conference.

Patrice Olsen presented "One Road for the Revolution: Avenida 20 de Noviembre and the Pursuit of Modernity in Mexico City" at the AHA in Chicago.

Katrin Paehler received a book contract (with David Messenger) for *'Nazi Self-Help' and Recast Identities: post-War Fates of Nazi Functional Elites* from University of Kentucky Press.

Lou Perez presented "Japan Leaves Asia and Enters the World: 1867-1900" at The Wyatt Lecture Series, University of Michigan-Flint.

John Reda received a contract from Northern Illinois Press to publish *From Furs to Farms: Land, Race, and Sovereignty in the Mississippi Valley, 1762-1825* as part of the series, *Early American Places*.

Touré Reed's talk on "Industrial Democracy and the Civil Rights Establishment of the 1930s," which he gave as part of his Kluge Postdoctoral Fellowship, was released as a podcast by The Library of Congress.

Richard Soderlund presented a session on "What is Atlantic History?" at the ICSS Spring Conference.

Sudipa Topdar presented "Anxieties of Masculinity: The Nation and the Child's Body in Early Twentieth-Century Popular Bengali Children's Magazines" at the International Conference on Popular Culture and Education in Hong Kong.

Georgia Tsouvala gave an invited talk at Newman University (Wichita, Kansas). "Before Title IX: Women Athletes in Greece and Rome."

Christine Varga-Harris guest edited the recently published *Russian Studies in History*. The theme: Politics, Ideology, and Society after Stalin (Volume 50 Number 3 / Winter 2011-12).

Stewart Winger wrote "A New Lincoln Legal History: The First Generation," in *The Journal of the Abraham Lincoln Association*, Winter 2011.

Amy Wood gave two conference papers, including "Murdering Beasts and Rituals of Retribution" at the St. George Tucker Society Meeting in Augusta, Georgia, and "Lynching and the Problem of Retributive Justice" at the San Francisco Rights Conference at SFSU. She also commented on a panel titled "Narratives of Sickness, Captivity and Disaster in Early America" at the U.S. Intellectual History conference in New York City.

10,000th graduate part of History Department History

By Linda Spencer



Thomas Hughes, Alma Hamilton, and Robert Bone, graduation 1959

When Thomas H. Hughes '59, M.S. '61, participated in graduation from ISNU in 1959 he did not know that he was about to become someone special in university history. At that event he was told by President Robert Bone that he was the 10,000 graduate from ISNU, to which he replied,

“Wow, you mean I passed all my courses and will graduate?”

Hughes passed away in May 2011, after a very successful career in education that started at ISNU. In August of 2011 his wife, Willene Hughes '58, M.S. '60, made a \$10,000 gift to the History Department in honor of that special event. We asked her to share with us some of her memories of their experiences at ISNU:

“Tom loved ISNU and through his lifetime was an ambassador for the University. He had the highest regard for the teaching profession, mirroring the teaching skills of his

teachers at ISNU.” They met at Fell Hall in June of 1959, where he was working as a summer cook and she was the ‘key’ and honor resident for two years. They married in June of 1960, lived in married student hous-

ing and both earned their master’s degrees. Her memories included picnics at Lake Bloomington, studying together at the old Milner library, and chili dogs at Steak ‘N Shake.

The donation is being used to address two department needs: stu-



Thomas and Willene Hughes, 2005, in New Zealand

dent travel funds for cocurricular field trips and faculty travel for historical research.

Alum inducted into CAS Hall of Fame, from page 3

He’d see a light bulb go on and knew that he’d gotten through to them.

I think the most important thing he taught us was to think critically. ‘Don’t just accept what the president, or the newspaper, or your parents say. Listen to opposing views, think about it, and come up with your own opinion. Question authority.’

He could have taught at a much larger high school or even at a large

university. But he chose to share his knowledge, compassion, and talent at our little high school. Thousands of us are more open-minded, confident, and willing to learn because of Darrel Sutter.”

Lew Sauder is the author of *Consulting 101: 101 Tips for Success in Consulting*.

History faculty receive five major university and college awards this year

Roger Biles received the prestigious Janice Neulieb Award for the most outstanding scholarly achievement by a CAS faculty member in 2011. The accomplishments earning him the honor included the publication of three books and three book reviews; invitations to lecture at Oxford, Cambridge, and the University of London; and the submission of a book chapter, “The South and the New Deal,” to appear in *The Oxford Handbook of the New Deal*.

Ron Gifford’s garnering of the CAS Elliott Award for Outstanding Staff (A/P) was the third year in a row that he has won a major prize. In naming Gifford as this year’s recipient of the Elliott Award, the college recognized his commitment to excellence in advising, his outstanding teaching, and his invaluable service as assistant chair of the department.

Georgia Tsouvala received the University Service Initiative Award during the Founder’s Day Convocation. Tsouvala is chair of the Committee on Ancient History for the American Philological Association (APA); mentor for the Women’s Classical Caucus Mentoring Program; a representative to the Managing Committee of the American School of Classical Studies at Athens; adviser of the national history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta; and a member of the Chicago National Hellenic Museum Advisory Committee.

Alan Lessoff won the College Outstanding Researcher Award (Social Sciences). Lessoff was recognized for the number and breadth of his publications (including his award-winning books); his editorship of the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*; his role in promoting a transnational approach to the U.S.

history; and his international collaboration and recognition, as evidenced by his two Fulbright scholarships and visiting professorship at Bilkent University. Lessoff will have a coedited work, *Modernism or Modernities*, out shortly, while his manuscript on Corpus Christi is almost ready to be shipped to publishers.

Richard Hughes won the College Outstanding Teacher Award (Social Sciences) for 2011–2012. This is a fitting tribute to Hughes’ record of classroom excellence, including his critical role in our history education program; his curricular initiatives; his SoTL publications; and his outreach activities ranging from Museums on Main Street to loan kits for the McLean County Museum of History, from the Academy of Seniors to writing a \$1,000,000 Teaching American History grant.

Three faculty publish books this year

Of the 21 books published by history faculty since 2008, four have appeared since last year’s newsletter.

Two of the four have come from the productive pen of **Roger Biles**, who coauthored (with John Bauman and Kristin Szylvian) *The Ever-Changing American City: 1945–Present* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012) and coedited (with Raymond A. Mohl) a third edition of *The Making of Urban America* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2012). The former work seeks to place urban demographic change, such as the depopulation of Detroit or the growth of Atlanta sub-

urbs in historical perspective. The latter work is the most up-to-date introduction to urban history for university students.

On the heels of her prize winning 2009 study, *Lynching and Spectacle*, **Amy Wood** edited *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture, Violence: Volume 19* (University of North Carolina Press, 2011). The book contributes to Wood’s growing reputation as a national expert on southern history and culture. Wood wrote the introductory essay, contributed three articles, and edited more than 95 entries.

Finally, after publishing two books in 2010, **Issam Nassar** coedited (with Mitri al-Raheb and Amad Mwroat) yet another book in 2011. *Karimeh Abbud: Raedat al-taweer al-Nassawi fi filastin, 1893–1940* [*Karimeh Abbud: The Pioneer of Women’s Photography in Palestine, 1893–1940*] (Diyar Publications, 2011) grew out of Nassar’s many collaborations with international scholars and reflects his innovative research on Middle East history using photographic sources.

2010–2012 Student Awards

HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARDS

Best Master's Degree Students
Sara Miner
Kevin Schrop

Best American Thesis
Dominic Garzonio

Best Global Thesis
Vanda Rajcan

LUCY LUCILE TASHER SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Brock Bodine
Sidney Comstock
Kassie Kallner
Brett Russler

GLEYNABA A. RAY AWARD

Joseph Dover
John Giglio

MARK WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Simon Rodriguez
Dave Shanahan

JAMES TODD WILBORN SCHOLARSHIP

Tyler Arnieri

DARREL A. SUTTER SCHOLARSHIP

Emilie Burkieqicz
Thomas Igyarto

KYLE C. SESSIONS HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

Katelyn Rogers

WILLIAM AND JEANNE HOWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Rachel Aberle
Becca Kijek
Caleb Rowe

LAWRENCE W. MCBRIDE AWARD

Taylor Loux
Melanie Kahn

HOWARD ROMANEK HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP

Chris Pendergast

History Department claims three Bone Scholars

By Ali McCracken

The History Department is proud to honor three history majors who have received the highly esteemed Bone Scholar award: **Brock Bodine, Chris Pendergast, and Danica Taylor.**

The Bone Scholar award is the highest honor an Illinois State undergraduate student can receive. Bodine, Pendergast, and Taylor have been extremely successful in their academic work. Each student has also found time to be involved in diverse and interesting extracurricular activities.

Aside from history, **Bodine** is passionate about severe weather, so much so that he is an official extreme weather spotter. He reports his findings for Champaign and Vermilion counties on a volunteer basis to the National Weather Service. In addition to extreme weather spotting, Bodine is involved in various campus activities, including serving as a resident advisor for three years. He was awarded the Lucy Lucile Tasher Senior Scholarship from the Department of History and the Lou Miglio Scholarship.

Pendergast also served as a resident advisor for three years. He said he enjoyed working with incoming freshmen and sophomores and helping them become a part of Illinois State. Pendergast won the Louis Miglio Scholarship, the Howard Romanek Scholarship, Honors Partial Tuition Scholarship, and the Joanne Giordanno Ford Education Fund Scholarship. Pendergast is also passionate about sports. He enjoys playing soccer and has played on intramural teams at Illinois State University. He is an avid Cubs fan.

Taylor is an athlete who does competitive trampoline. She also has served as the director of the Jr. Gamma Phi Circus at Metcalf. Recently, the Gamma Phi Circus established an award in her name (The Danica Taylor

Leadership Award), which will be given out to a student each year. She has also won the Future Alumni Leader Award, the Charles Bolen Senior Professionals Mentoring Program Award, the Hibbert R. Roberts Outstanding Graduating Senior Award (Department of Politics and Government), and the Tom Eimmerman Outstanding Pre-Law Student Award. She is also involved with a ministry group on campus.

Bodine, Pendergast, and Taylor have all found time to enjoy interests out of school, but it is apparent that each of them is very passionate about history and higher education. Bodine's long-term goal is to be a university professor. He loves history and wants to ignite this passion in future students. Pendergast has aspirations to become a history teacher at the high school level. Taylor will pursue a career in law. She applied to 19 law schools and will attend University of Michigan this fall.

Pendergast stated the best piece of inspiration he has received is a quote by Aristotle—"Excellence is not a single action but a habit. You are what you repeatedly do." Bodine, Pendergast, and Taylor have taken this quotation to heart, and the History Department is pleased to honor their achievements.



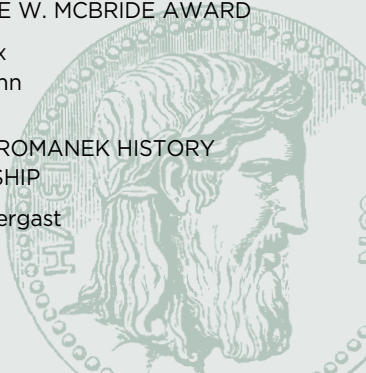
Brock Bodine



Chris Pendergast



Danica Taylor



early imperial period in Roman Greece. While this might be seen as scant evidence, Tsouvala maintains that ancient historians always struggle with fragmentary sources.

The process of studying inscriptions has had its challenges. At first, Tsouvala had to look through thousands more images of inscriptions to find two more examples of female membership in gymnasia and wrestling grounds. Tsouvala estimates she looked through almost 40,000 inscriptions to find the three examples. Once Tsouvala finds the inscription she is interested in studying, she has to apply for grants for travel expenses and to the Ministry of Culture in Greece for a permit to study the inscription. Once the permit is approved, Tsouvala makes plans for traveling to Greece. As a native of Greece, she enjoys visiting and working there very much. Tsouvala has learned that there are unexpected problems studying inscriptions, such as having to



Tsouvala in Greece

wait for nearly six hours in an office for personnel to respond to her before they would allow her to return the following day. Logistical and funding problems do not phase Tsouvala, though. She enjoys the whole process and states: "There are problems involved with the work but, in general, it is a lot of fun and, when the process works out, you end up having something nobody else has. The original research is the exciting part of being a historian."

Sometimes Tsouvala is allowed to take what is called a squeeze of the inscription. A squeeze is an imprint of the inscription, which Tsouvala is allowed to take home with her. She can then continue to study the image upon returning to the United States. Tsouvala incorporates the squeezes into her lectures whenever she can. The inscriptions

help students learn about epigraphy, i.e., the study of inscriptions, and about the variety and the interdisciplinarity of the primary sources used to "do" ancient history.

Tsouvala is lucky enough to have found ancient inscriptions herself while assisting in an excavation in Greece. While uncovering a tomb, the student workers were throwing what appeared to be rocks to the side of the tomb. The epigraphist in Tsouvala thought to brush off and examine the stones. "Always examine the stones," she says. At the end of the day, Tsouvala "struck gold" and found two fragmentary inscriptions. This was an amazing day for Tsouvala, as it is every epigraphist's dream to discover an original inscription.

Associate professor of history **Issam Nassar** is researching the Middle East region during the late Ottoman period. Photography from the time period has guided his research and provides a glimpse into what life was like for the people of the region. Nassar also is interested in studying personal papers, memoirs, receipts, newspaper articles, and other personal documents. He connects these pieces of evidence together with the photographs, which allows him to contextualize the social life, economic situation, and culture of the region.

Nassar explains the different methods he uses to find a photograph. Most scholars of photography research the history of a photographer and then either consult their work or examine collections at an archive. While he uses this method, Nassar also has found stored in Palestinian family's closets and attics amazing collections that have not been donated to a library or an archive.

After locating the photographs, Nassar will study the photograph itself, paying close attention to aspects such as how the people present themselves and their interactions with others in the photographs. He next determines what the photograph itself says about the time period. Nassar stresses the importance of connecting the photographs to other personal documents in order to put the image into a historical context. By piecing together the evidence, he is able to get an idea of what life was like at the time. Often, the bigger picture says much more than what is in the picture itself.

One of Nassar's findings was an album similar to a scrap book that docu-

ments the adventures of young Palestinian men who traveled to Germany to participate in the summer Olympics of 1936. The album outlines the trip and contains photographs, tickets from museums he visited, and other tokens from the adventure. The album not only documents a historical event, but also tells us about Palestinian society. Nassar states, "This shows us that people lived normal lives. There are people aspiring to be in the Olympics. There were sports and people who could afford to do this."

Another one of Nassar's findings was a notebook of finances kept by a Palestinian man who managed to remain in his home while almost all of his community of about 30,000 Palestinians were expelled from West Jerusalem by Israel in 1948. The man was one of the 200 Palestinians who were allowed to remain in the region. The notebook lists food bought and how and when the food was obtained. From this list, Nassar could see that the man's food supply was limited, the times he could purchase the food was restricted due to a legal curfew, and that he often had to smuggle the food from the Israeli side. While the notebook might seem mundane to the average reader, Nassar found that he could "discover how big events influenced regular people." He eventually met the family of the man who kept the notebook and was able to collect photographs from them. Through the research process, he became very good friends with the man's family. In this way, the photographs became much more than just images on paper. They provided a link into not only a historical topic, but into a modern family who continued to be influenced by events around them.

Professors Olsen, Tsouvala, and Nassar have shown that primary sources come in all shapes and forms, from graffiti on the streets of Argentina, to fragmentary inscriptions found in archeological digs, to photographs discovered in the closet of a Palestinian family. These three professors, however, are not alone in using new sources in their work. Indeed, in the fall, the history department will welcome a new medievalist, Katie Jasper, who used GIS mapping systems to explore the nature of monastic networks in 11th-century Italy. Thus, the department will continue to expand the repertoire of sources used to shed light on past peoples and cultures.

Annual Spring Conference

This year Illinois State University and the Illinois Council of Social Studies partnered to host our spring conference at the McLean County Museum of History. A record number of participants attended the conference, including area teachers, student teachers, and students from our history-social sciences education program.

The theme of this year's conference was "Building a Sense of Community." Five History Department faculty were presenters, including **Anthony Crubaugh,**

Monica Noraian,
Richard Soderlund,
Dan Stump,
and **Fred Walk.**

Topics ranged from "What is Atlantic History?" to "Strategies for Teaching Writing in the Social Studies." The day ended at the



State Farm hosted lunch and a history lesson on the downtown building

historic State Farm Building with lunch and a discussion about local history. Presenters were Bill Kemp (McLean County Museum of History archivist) and Dan Barringer (State Farm historian). Conference attendee Eric Martinez listed this presentation as a highlight of his day.

According to Noraian, one of the goals of the conference was to have "teachers leave with information they can use the next day in their classrooms." That goal was definitely met for Lisa Castleman, teacher and department chair from Olympia High School. She reported that one week after the conference she used one of the techniques she learned in Noraian's session on Building Communities through Engaging Activities. Likewise, Shawn Healy from the McCormick Foundation shared information from his session on the presidential primary race that proved invaluable teaching about the 2012 election.

NCATE grants program accreditation

In April the history-social sciences education program, as part of the Professional Education Unit at Illinois State University, participated in the on-campus site visit by The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) accreditors.

NCATE is the profession's mechanism to help establish high quality teacher preparation. NCATE currently accredits 632 colleges of education. NCATE accreditation is a mark of distinction and provides recognition that the college of education has met national professional standards for the preparation of teachers

and other educators. In NCATE's performance-based accreditation system, institutions must provide evidence of competent teacher candidate performance. Teacher candidates also must know the subject matter they plan to teach and how to teach effectively so that all students learn.

The intensive two-part accreditation process started more than a year ago with the submission of written reports. The process ended with the on-site visit. We are proud to report that the education program at Illinois State University, including our history-social sciences education program, met all six standards for accreditation at both the initial and advanced levels.

Monica Noraian, Richard Hughes, Andrew Hartman, Anthony Crubaugh, and graduate students **Sarah Miner** and **Doris Wiel,** several co-operating teachers,

student teachers, and student teacher supervisors were all involved in this successful accreditation process.

ISU hosts Illinois Capitol Forum



Patrice Olsen led Human Rights Simulation

The 12th annual Illinois Capitol Forum on America's Future was held in the Bone Student Center at Illinois State University on April 12, 2012. As a civic education initiative program, the Capitol Forum allows Illinois high school students the opportunity to meet with experts to learn about and debate U.S. foreign policy and international policy issues.

Associate Professor of History **Richard Hughes** served as the event coordinator and as a guest expert. Associate Professor of History **Patrice Olsen** also served as a guest expert.

This year, the program focused on human rights issues, including freedom of expression, right to health, rights of children, and military intervention for human rights. Students from six Illinois high schools were in attendance.



Richard Hughes served as event coordinator

The Capitol Forum on America's Future is a program created through the Illinois Humanities Council. The event was presented in partnership with The Choices Program at Brown University, Illinois State University, and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

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