E-Newsletter - Spring 2019

Spring Message from Professor Anand Yang, Department of History Chair.

Four years have flown by quickly. I have very much appreciated chairing the History Department and the unique vantage point that has afforded me to get to know my excellent colleagues—faculty and staff—and students a lot better. I have also enjoyed working with our many community supporters, particularly our History Advisory Board headed by Debbie Galuska and composed of other prominent local leaders. Our quarterly gatherings are always occasions to celebrate the Department’s many achievements and recognize all the people at UW and in the wider community that make our faculty and students so successful in the classroom and in their scholarship.

As the many stories featured in this quarterly update highlight, the History Department is always making news in and around campus. We relish sharing our expertise with others and elucidating the present through an understanding of the past, and we routinely do that in our classes and in the many extraordinary events we organize and sponsor weekly.

As I hand the chair position over to my colleague Professor Glennys Young this summer, I look forward to returning to my research and writing on a full-time basis, something I have not been able to do in the last few years. Fortunately, I managed to send off my new book manuscript on Empire of Convicts to the press, a little later than I had planned to but such is the life of an administrator. I am also excited by the prospect of doing a lot more teaching, interacting with many more undergraduate and graduate students than I have been able to do in recent years. I want to thank History faculty, staff, students, and HAB members who have made my stint at the helm of the Department, to use a cricket metaphor, a good innings.

Faculty Lecture 2019: Professor Emeritus Quintard Taylor on African American Women Who Changed the World

The Department of History was thrilled when Professor Emeritus Quintard Taylor, Scott and Dorothy Bullitt Professor of American History, was selected to deliver the University Faculty Lecture for 2019. This prestigious accolade, established in 1976, honors faculty whose research and scholarship have “been widely recognized by their peers and whose achievements have had a substantial impact on their profession, the research or performance of others, and society as a whole.” Taylor is being... Read more.
The Year So Far: Department News & Notes for 2018-19

Here at Smith Hall we can't quite believe that those beautiful cherry blossoms have come and gone, and that Spring Quarter is now in full swing. We've had a great year so far, full of exciting and engaging events showing, once again, that history matters. Learn more below. Autumn Quarter September – Department of History Autumn Reception Always a time for celebration and excitement, this year’s gathering was also an opportunity to reflect on the lives of two great friends of the... Read more

Raising their Voices: Seen Through the Eyes of Charity Urbanski, Senior Lecturer in History, the Women of Medieval Europe Have a Lot to Teach Today’s Students

In her course History 340: Medieval Women, Urbanski dives into what life was like for women in the Middle Ages, including how gender stereotypes developed and how early feminist thought emerged in response. Read more at University of Washington ⇒

Teaching Outside the Book in the Department of History: A Trio of Classes Emphasizing Nontraditional Media, Coming This Summer

The Department of History is renowned for its teaching and learning. While employing more traditional methods, our professors and graduate students also love to explore innovative approaches to learning, which utilize nontraditional sources such as film and music. This summer promises to be no exception. Interested in learning more about everyday life in the modern Middle East through Turkish pop music? Or delving into the classical history of the Mediterranean through the films of Indiana... Read more

Exploring the Archives to Uncover New Pacific Northwest Histories
Months of research, sifting through the documentary traces of the past. Not just learning the history of a different region, but immersing yourself in its culture. Spending the day in the archive, and only coming up for air for a coffee and quick bite of food. These are exciting rites of passage for Department of History graduate students working on their PhD theses. Our current cohort are excavating the stories of the past all over the world, in the archives of Moscow, Pakistan, Shanghai,... Read more

Ancient Iran Day: Another Side of the Ancient World

In December, the Department of History and the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, hosted a major public history event: Ancient Iran Day: Another Side of the Ancient World. This unique occasion brought together Seattle's Persian community and experts on the ancient world to offer a diverse audience the chance to explore the wonders and mysteries of one of our oldest civilizations. The resulting celebration of Iranian history and culture proved a huge success,... Read more

Department of History faculty in the news:

Laurie Marhoefer featured on The Conversation: The Freddie Mercury story that goes untold in Bohemian Rhapsody

Devin Naar on NBC talking about preserving the Ladino Language

James Gregory talks to the Seattle Times about the legacy of the 1919 Seattle General Strike

Margaret O'Mara tells Crosscut why we need more history majors

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