Dear History Department Community,

It's been a busy and productive quarter in Smith Hall. Our undergraduate courses have been in high demand, and we've welcomed a new cohort of talented graduate students. In this issue, you can also read about the accomplishments of one of our current graduate students, Jessica Bachman, as well as about the career of an alumnus of our graduate program, Ali Iğmen, who is now professor of history at California State University, Long Beach.

Fall quarter has also been filled with events, and we look forward to kicking off the new year with even more. As you'll read in this newsletter, Harvard historian Phil Deloria, a distinguished historian of the Native American experience, visited the department for a seminar and gave a talk. We launched books by Arbella Bet-Shlimon (City of Black Gold: Oil, Ethnicity, and the Making of Modern Kirkuk) and Margaret O'Mara (The Code: Silicon Valley and the Remaking of America). Thanks to the efforts of Joel Walker and Hamza Zafer, a faculty member in Near Eastern Languages and Civilization, the Horn of Africa Initiative has offered the university and broader Seattle community several talks and events. On January 22, the annual History Lecture Series, whose theme this year is “Life, Death, and the Gods,” will launch with a lecture by Adam Warren (Aztecs), followed by talks on subsequent Wednesdays by Mira Green (ancient Rome), Patricia Ebrey (early China), and Joel Walker (ancient Iran). We look forward to seeing you there, and at other departmental events in winter quarter, 2020!

On behalf of the History Department, I would like to wish you a joyous holiday season, and send my best wishes for the New Year. I look forward to updating you in 2020 about the accomplishments of our undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty, and to chatting with you at one of the many events we will host in the New Year.

Glennys Young
Chair


The winter History Lecture Series is a highlight of the academic year in the Department of History. We are pleased to announce that tickets for this year’s series, Life, Death, and the Gods, will be for sale from the UW Alumni.
History Students and Faculty Team Up with Local Communities for the Horn of Africa Initiative

In 2018, when history doctoral student Jeffrey Haines decided to enroll in a class in the Ge'ez language—an ancient form of Ethiopic similar to Syriac—taught by one of his advisors, assistant professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization (NELC) Hamza Zafer, he expected that he and a friend would be the only people interested. Haines explained that he had particular scholarly reasons for wanting to learn the language: “East Africa was an important part of the late ancient and medieval... Read more

Reaching New Publics with History Podcasts

Jessica Bachman: Inspiring 99% Invisible “Jessica!” a friend's message began. “Huge shout-out to you on 99% Invisible!” Jessica Bachman responded with thanks, and then added, “I forgot to tell you about it, but actually I was the source for the story.” Bachman, a doctoral candidate in history, was busy with archival research in Russia when she received a message from a producer at the popular podcast 99% Invisible, which examines aspects of our society that most of us know little about, or... Read more

Undergraduates: Parse Fact from Fiction in History Courses this Winter

History courses aim to sharpen students’ critical thinking abilities, teach the differences between types of sources and how to analyze their contexts and meaning, and practice argumentative writing. Students can choose from more than thirty course offerings in history for winter quarter this year. The following courses cover a variety of centuries and places around the world but they all provide students with methods and skills to distinguish fact from invention in sources across history. Find... Read more

Growing Our History Community: Graduate Students Speak with Visiting Scholars
Every quarter, to complement the world-class researchers on faculty, the Department of History brings in leading scholars from around the globe to enrich and invigorate our History community. Philip Deloria, professor of history at Harvard University, visited a History Department seminar in October to discuss his research and writing with graduate students. Indigenous studies students from across campus joined Professor Joshua Reid’s American Indian History seminar for the day to consider the... Read more

History Alumnus Mentors International Scholars

The History faculty prides itself on the excellence of its mentorship. Department alumni carry that ambition with them. Ali Iğmen (PhD, UW, 2004), professor of history at California State University, Long Beach, recently received an International Public Service Award from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public and International Affairs for his work as a mentor to international scholars. A historian of Soviet culture and gender politics in Central Eurasia, Iğmen’s main goal as a... Read more

Faculty News

- **George Behlmer** won the 2019 Stansky Book Prize from the North American Conference on British Studies. This prize is awarded for the best book by a North American scholar “on any aspect of British studies since 1800.”
- **Patricia Ebrey** won the 2020 Association for Asian Studies Award for Distinguished Contributions to Asian Studies.
- **James Felak** was appointed the Newman Center Term Professor in Catholic Christianity for a five-year term.
- **Robin Stacey** received the Vernam Hull Memorial Prize 2018 from the Center for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies at the University of Wales for the volume *Law and the Imagination in Medieval Wales* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018). This prize is given “for completed work dealing with Welsh Prose before 1700.”
- **Daniel Waugh**, Professor Emeritus, was on the advisory board and contributed two lead essays and some photographs for *Silk Roads: Peoples, Cultures, Landscapes*, ed. Susan Whitfield, foreword by Peter Sellars (Thames and Hudson, 2019). Waugh also contributed the lead essay for a three-volume collection *Reading Russia: A History of Reading in Modern Russia*, ed. Damiano Rebecchini and Raffaella Vassena (Ledizioni, 2019-2020).

Graduate Student News

- **Jessica Bachman** won a 2019-2020 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Award. The Textual Studies Program also awarded her the Raimonda Modiano Graduate Student Research Award.
- **Alika Bourgette** won the Frank Jenkins Jr. Fellowship in Labor Studies from the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies.
- **Madison Heslop** received a Short Term Fellowship from the Newberry Library for a residency this spring.
- **Hongxuan Lin** received a scholarship from the National University of Singapore (NUS) to fund a one-year visiting postdoctoral fellowship at LSE’s Southeast Asia Center. The postdoc will commence May 2020.
- **Brendan McElmeel** won a 2019-2020 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Research Award to support his doctoral research in Russia.

Undergraduate News

All four best paper awards for labor history and labor studies went to History majors at the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies

Alumni News

- Ali Iğmen (PhD 2004) received the International Public Service Award from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public and International Affairs.
- Patrick Lozar (PhD 2019) joined the faculty at the University of Victoria in a tenure-track position.

Department of History
University of Washington
318 Smith Box 353560
Seattle, WA 98195-3560

Phone: (206) 543-5790
Fax: (206) 543-9451
histmain@uw.edu

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