News from the Department

Greetings from the Department of History at W&J! Our third annual newsletter offers an overview of the accomplishments and achievements of faculty, students, and alumni. We hope that it will help to create a sense of community among those who share a love of history at W&J.

Dr. Robert H. Dodge has announced that he will be retiring following the 2013-2014 academic year. The Linn Professor of History, Dodge has had an extraordinarily distinguished teaching career at the College that has spanned 44 years and several generations of students. Dodge arrived at W&J in 1970 after earning his Ph.D. at Syracuse University. He has brought his boundless energy and enthusiasm to courses in Russian and Soviet history, German history, Middle Eastern history, the history of the European Union, and survey courses in Modern European history.

He and Dr. John Mark Scott, Jr., led more than a dozen trips to Russia and the former Soviet Union during Intersession and the summer. Dodge also took students to China on one occasion and spent a semester at sea. Dodge took students to the Model European Union conference for many years and hosted that conference at W&J on numerous occasions. Thanks to his efforts, W&J will host the conference this coming February. He has also hosted the Army War College panel for the past decade.

The Department is currently searching for an historian of Modern Europe to teach courses in that era. But as Thomas Jefferson said when he arrived in France to become the new American ambassador and was asked if he were the beloved Benjamin Franklin’s replacement, “No one can replace him, Sir: I am only his successor.”

Thank you, Dr. Dodge, for years of service to the History Department at W&J.
News from the Department continued

Dr. Victoria D. List (1987) reports that the highlight of her year was a two-week visit to France this past summer. She hung out in the square where the original guillotine was set up, stayed in a house fifteen minutes outside of Avignon, and generally wallowed in the history of that lovely country, both medieval and modern. She conceded that the food and wine were pretty good, too! She recently attended the annual meeting of the American Society for Legal History in Miami, Florida.

Dr. James L. Gormly (1989) has been on sabbatical during the fall of 2013. He is at work on a book on the history of American international civil aviation from the end of the First World War until the deregulation of the airline industry during the Carter Administration.

Dr. W. Thomas Mainwaring (1989), the current chair of the Department, spent the spring of 2013 on sabbatical. He researched the role that local women played in the abolition movement and the Underground Railroad. He attended the American Historical Association’s annual conference in New Orleans in January 2013.

Dr. Patrick Caffrey (2002) published “Transforming the Forests of a Counterfeit Nation: Japan’s Manchu Nation in Northeast China” in *Environmental History* (April 2013). He began serving as a peer reviewer for the same journal, meaning that he evaluates whether submitted articles should be published. He continues to advise the Asian Culture Association and to serve on the Campus Sustainability Committee.

Hilary Miller (08) taught several twentieth-century American history classes for the Department in the fall of 2013 during Dr. Gormly’s sabbatical. She is a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at Penn State University, Harrisburg. She obtained her master’s degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.
Student Spotlights

Nathan Michaux (’13) (pictured left) was awarded a Gilder-Lehrman scholarship, one of fifteen such scholarships awarded across the country. Michaux spent four days in New York City in June attending a history seminar sponsored by the Gilder-Lehrman Institute. He and the other History Scholars were able to examine a first draft of the Thirteenth Amendment. Michaux was also the valedictorian of the class of 2013, achieving a perfect 4.0 GPA. Michaux received numerous awards from the Department for his scholarship. He was awarded the Alfred Henry Sweet Prize for his honors project, “Rewriting History: The True Cause of Secession,” directed by Dr. Mainwaring. He is attending law school at William and Mary.

Brittany Mosi (’13) served as the Peer-Assisted Learning tutor for history.

Alexander Nallin (’13), a dual history and economics major, has begun a two-year stint with the Peace Corps in Peru. He is living in the small rural community of Montero, population of about 2,000, in northern Peru, about three hours from the Ecuadorian border. He is currently teaching English as a Second Language (ESL), but over the course of the next year he will be moving into more business-oriented projects including advising, conducting business classes for young entrepreneurs, and helping to create a source of micro-financing through community banks. The community grows a large share of Peru’s organic coffee and sugar, but local farmers receive very little of the profit from the sale of these commodities. The average income of local families is $149 per month. Last spring, Nallin completed his honors project, “The West Bank: 46 Years of Israeli Occupation,” under the direction of Dr. Dodge. His project examined Israel’s economic and political policies towards the West Bank.

Jamie Battaglia (’14) (pictured left) worked this past summer as an intern at the Warren County Historical Society and Museum in Lebanon, Ohio. She worked on developing a finding aid to photographs that appeared in the local newspaper, The Western Star, between 1930 and 2000. She also went on “scavenger hunts” to find materials for local historians and museum staffers in the museum’s collections and vault. While examining documents in the vault, she discovered letters written by George Washington, James Madison, and Johns Hopkins. Battaglia recently began contributing to a column in the W&J student newspaper, the Red & Black, that focuses on documents found in the Learned T. Bulman ’48 Historic Archives & Museum in the U. Grant Miller Library at W&J. Battaglia intends to pursue a career in archives and preservation.

Bryan Lantz (’14) was awarded the William H. Davis (’81) scholarship for 2013-14. Lantz is enrolled in the teacher certification program and planning to teach social studies.

W&J History Club

2013-2014 Officers

Christina Hoenow
President

Jamie Battaglia
Vice-President

Sarah Depew
Secretary/Treasurer
Student Accomplishments

W&J History Majors
The Department currently has more than 30 majors. Of these, eleven are seniors. The Department graduated what may have been a record number of majors last spring – 27.

2013 Phi Alpha Theta (History Honorary Society) Initiates

April 3
Jamie Battaglia
Sarah Depew
Christina Hoenow
Chase Irvin
Rheanna Johnson
Sara Mitchell
Dan Tannenholtz

November 21
Conor Crowe
Jath DiCecco
Robert Hedman
Michael Magdic
Zachary Wolfe

2013 Western Pennsylvania Phi Alpha Theta History Conference

West Virginia University
Alexis Geeza ('13) – awarded prize for best paper in her session
Nathan Michaux ('13) – awarded prize for best paper in his session
Michael Nemchick ('13)
Rachel Shaw ('13)
Advised by Dr. Gormly
*2013 marked the 23rd consecutive year W&J students have presented at this conference!*

2013 Model European Union

University of Pittsburgh
William Arthur ('15)
Thomas Marcotte ('15)
Alexandar Nallin ('13)
Jacob Ulishney ('13)
Advised by Dr. Dodge

2013 Undergraduate Research Competition

University of Pittsburgh
Alexander Nallin ('13)
Dana Ringer ('14)
Advised by Dr. Dodge

Phi Beta Kappa (Spring 2013)
Alexis Geeza ('13)
McKenzie Graf ('13)
Nathan Michaux ('13)
Brittany Mosi ('13)

2013 W&J Teacher Certification Program Graduates
Andrew Cappucci
Justin Cross
Michael Hildreth
Brittany Mosi
Dawn Murphy
Alumni News

Andrew J. Tabler (’94), currently a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, published an article in Foreign Affairs Quarterly (July/August 2013) entitled “Syria’s Collapse and How Washington Can Stop It.”

Jonathan Flickinger (’05) earned his J.D. degree from Duquesne University School of Law after graduating from W&J. He is currently employed at CENTRIA in Moon Township, handling labor and employment issues and legal compliance. He also consults with StarPR Las Vegas, helping to represent UFC fighters in the combat sports industry. Jonathan recently got married and lives in the South Hills. He attributes the development of his analytical skills to the essay tests in Dr. Dodge’s history courses and to Dr. List’s exploration of the U.S. justice system.

Christopher Nesensohn (’05) is currently in his ninth year of teaching social studies at Methacton High School. He primarily teaches European Studies. He earned his master’s in education from Gratz College in 2008. Chris resides in Eagleville, PA, with his wife Kristina Nesensohn (Springborn) (’05) and one-year-old daughter, Arianna.

Michael Plumb (’06) is the assistant manager for program development at Mount Vernon. He again conducted a tour of Mount Vernon this November for Dr. Mainwaring’s First Year Seminar class, “George and Tom as Founding Fathers.”

Lindsay (Harlow) Strehl (’08) was married at W&J this fall. She earned a master’s degree in American Studies at Penn State University, Harrisburg and is currently working at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center in Carlisle, PA. She has presented papers at the Eastern American Studies Conference and the Popular Culture Association Conference. Her research focuses on the soldiers of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection.

Tyler Kaido (’10) graduated from Washington and Lee University School of Law in May 2013. He passed the Ohio bar exam and has been working for a small firm in Marietta, OH, since August. He will soon begin reporting for duty in the U.S. Air Force JAG Corps and begin a four-year active duty commitment. Tyler reports that he has been catching up on his history reading since passing the bar and says that Lexington, VA, was a great place from which to observe the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Alicyn Wiedrich (’11) earned a master’s degree in history from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Her thesis examined civil rights museums, memorials, and historic sites associated with the civil rights movement. Part of her thesis, an interpretive guide to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, is to be published. She is working as the educator for the newly-opened Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby, NC. The center is dedicated to bluegrass legend Earl Scruggs. In the above photo, Ali (pictured third from left) unveils the new sign for the Earl Scruggs Center.

We’d love to hear from you!
Email Dr. Mainwaring with announcements and updates at tmainwaring@washjeff.edu.
Contributions to the Department

As always, we would welcome contributions to the Department. There are several ways in which you could help the Department:

Internships and jobs for majors and minors in history and related fields such as museums, archives, public service, and business.

Connections that could lead to internships and jobs.

Housing for students serving as interns.

The Alumni Mentor Program pairs a W&J graduate with an undergraduate in his or her field of expertise. To participate in this program, contact the Office of Alumni Relations.

Financial Contributions

Financial contributions to the Department's unrestricted gift fund can support
1. Student travel to conferences, research sites, seminars, etc.
2. Internship travel expenses
3. Dinner for Phi Alpha Theta initiates at the Union Grill

The Department would also like to solicit larger donations. As some of you may be aware, several extraordinarily generous history alumni who wish to remain anonymous have been behind the effort to establish an endowed chair named in honor of Professor Walter Sanderlin, who taught at the College for over thirty years. Approximately $500,000 has been promised for the Sanderlin chair out of the $1.5 million needed to establish it.

You might also consider creating a scholarship, as William H. Davis ('81) has done. The Davis Award goes to exceptionally worthy junior and senior history majors.

Many thanks to our recent alumni donors!

William H. Davis ('81)    Jonathan Pendleton ('81)    Joshua Andy ('04)    Hilary Miller ('08)

Please contact Dr. Mainwaring at tmainwaring@washjeff.edu to contribute to the Department.