Greetings, I hope this newsletter finds you in good cheer. On behalf of the History and Geography department, I would like to take this time to welcome each of the new graduate students to our program, as well as those of you who are returning. We have many exciting formal and informal events planned for this semester and we hope to see many of you there!

In the first edition of our newly-founded publication, Historia, you will find an introduction to the department, including biographies for the department’s Teaching Assistants, a departmental spotlight featuring an individual from the History & Geography department, and information regarding upcoming events, opportunities, and deadlines.

Please feel free to email if you have questions, comments, wish to see something particular included in future publications, or if you have ideas on how to improve the newsletter.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable semester!

-Ashley Nelson

Departmental Spotlight

Sharon Kelting

This edition’s spotlight features the department’s new administrative assistant, Sharon Kelting. Not a stranger to the department, Sharon graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma with her degree in Geography. During her time as a student, she served as the Senator and Treasurer for the Geography club and assisted the former administrative assistant, Candace, in her duties. Sharon enjoys frequenting bookstores, extensive traveling, Dr. Who, and European history. Sharon and her husband have three children; a 15 year old and 13 year-old twins. Sharon, an advocate for animal rescue, has two cats and a dog that her family has adopted. Sharon also thoroughly enjoys British comedy, which may attribute to her self-professed dry sense of humor. This summer, Sharon and her family hope to travel to Scotland, where this fun-loving believer hopes to catch a glimpse of Nessie. So please join the department in welcoming Sharon by stopping by her office to say “hi.” If you happen to have a sweet tooth, you are in luck - Sharon’s is rumored to contain the most delectable chocolates in the office.
Thomaira Babbit

Major area of study: Museum Studies

Minor area of study: Middle Eastern studies

Thomaira is a returning TA, responsible for covering courses for absent professor and working within the Laboratory of History Museum. Her thesis deals with Israeli archaeological practices and policies and their infringement on indigenous Palestinian cultural patrimony. It further proposes that the Israeli government enact a type of United States Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act as a measure to ensure recognition of its native, indigenous community’s history and culture. Dr. Pool chairs Thomaira’s committee, which also includes Dr. Loughlin, Dr. Mohammad, and Heidi Vaughan. After graduation this summer, Thomaira plans to immerse herself in the Arabic language until she ships out for the United States Army in October or November. Thomaira will serve in the Army as an Intelligence Analyst. In her free time, Thomaira likes to spend time with her family, read, play Call of Duty, watch movies, exercise, and complain, “There’s not enough time in the day to do everything I want to do!”

Eric Beu

Major area of study: History

Minor area of study: N/A

Eric is a returning TA, responsible for coordinating TA’s to cover courses and to help Dr. Roberson and Dr. Baker with grading and recording. Eric is writing his thesis about the anti-New Deal reaction in Oklahoma, particularly from the governor. He has yet to finalize his committee. Upon graduation in December 2012, Eric plans to apply to Ph.D. programs. Eric likes to watch the tell-a-vision in his free time.

Amanda Biles

Major area of study: American/social history

Minor area of study: European

Amanda is a returning TA, responsible for teaching HIST 1483. Her thesis involves a comparative analysis of farmer reactions to the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938. Chaired by Dr. Loughlin, Amanda’s thesis committee also includes Dr. Brown and Dr. Hurt. Upon graduation in summer 2011, Amanda plans to teach American history and apply for Ph.D. programs. In her spare time, Amanda enjoys a variety of crafts and gardening.
Justin Burch

Major area of study: American

Minor area of study: Asian

Justin is a new TA, responsible for assisting with Historical Research 3113, assisting Dr. Li, and helping with the department’s newsletter and website. His working thesis title is “The 1954 U.S.-Taiwan Mutual Defense Treaty and the 1954-1955 Taiwan Straits Crisis.” Dr. Li is the chair of his committee, with Dr. Plaks and Dr. Adamiak serving as well. Upon graduation in December 2011, Justin plans to pursue a Ph.D. degree. In regards to what he enjoys doing outside of scholarly work, Justin asserts, “I am a graduate student; I do not have free time.”

Clary James Carey

Major area of study: Museum Studies

Minor area of study: Oklahoma

Clary is a returning TA, responsible for assisting with Historical Research 3113 and the Laboratory of History Museum. Her thesis focuses on the Territorial Normal School of Oklahoma period, 1890 to 1903. She is looking at several different aspects that include the time leading up to the creation of the Normal School, the creation of the Normal School to the first graduating class in 1897, and the relationship between TNSO and the community of Edmond. Upon graduation in fall 2011, Clary plans to work in a museum or archive within the state. In her free time, Clary enjoys photography, Cardinal’s baseball, and spending time with her husband and friends.

Ashley Nelson

Major area of study: European/Victorian England/intellectual & social history

Minor area of study: Asian

Ashley is a new TA, responsible for coordinating the graduate student organization, colloquium, and assisting with Historical Research 3113. Her thesis involves Harriet Martineau’s propagation of Malthusian ideologies throughout Victorian England, especially within the intellectual circle of Charles Darwin. Chaired by Dr. Sheetz-Nguyen, Ashley’s thesis committee also includes Dr. Piers Hale of the OU History of Science Department. Ashley is still in the process of determining the third member of her committee. Upon graduation in May 2012, Ashley plans to enter directly into a Ph.D. program for the history of science. In her spare time, Ashley enjoys running, crafts, and spending time with her family.

Mary Vick

Major area of study: European History

Minor area of study: Women’s History

Mary is a veteran TA, responsible for assisting with Historical Research 3113 and Historical Research Writing and methods. Mary’s thesis illuminates the social history of the underwriters of Lloyd’s of London. Mary’s committee consists of Dr. Baughman, Dr. Ice, Dr. Sheetz-Nguyen, and Dr. Springer. Upon graduation in May 2011, Mary plans to stay out of trouble and apply to Ph.D. programs at UTA, Marquette, and the University of Wales, Swansea.
The Pat Beard Society

The graduate program is excited to announce the founding of its new student organization, The Pat Beard Society. Developed in commemoration of the late Pat Beard, a faculty and graduate of the University of Central Oklahoma History & Geography department, the purpose of this organization is to develop the professionalism, comradeship, and intellectual growth of graduate and selected undergraduate students.

Throughout the semester, the PBS will host both social and academic events in formal and informal settings, as well as professional development opportunities.

There are no dues to join, so we hope to see everyone there!

If interested, please contact either Ashley Nelson or Justin Burch.

**Officers**

Group Advisor: Dr. Patti Loughlin  
President: Ashley Nelson  
Vice-President: Justin Burch  
Secretary: Sherry Duncan  
Treasurer: Michael Molina  
Senator: Ashley Nelson  
Central Committee Members: Thomaira Babbit, Eric Beu, Amanda Biles, Justin Burch, Clary Carey, Michael Molina, Ashley Nelson, Mary Vick

**History on Tap**

As part of its purpose to foster comradeship amongst fellow students and faculty, the PBS will host two outings per month to various pubs throughout the metro. During these informal gatherings, students will have the chance to engage with various faculty members in a non-classroom setting. Our first History on Tap meeting will take place Friday, February 25, 2011 at Dan McGuinness Pub in Edmond at 7 pm. We hope to see you there!
Upcoming Events and Deadlines

Conference Paper Presentation Practice with Dr. Michael Springer and Dr. Jeff Plaks, Monday, February 14th, from 2:00-2:50 p.m. in room LA 115. Bring your paper and come practice your presentation skills!

Future Museum Professionals Organization Meeting: February 15, LA room 234, 12:30-1:30

Phi Alpha Theta Conference: February 18th-19th

RSCA Grants are due February 22, 2011

Phi Alpha Theta Initiation: February 22, 2011

Liberal Arts Symposium: February 23, 2011

Future Museum Professionals Organization Meeting: March 1, Evans Hall Great Room from 12:30-1:30

Phi Alpha Theta Book Sale: March 2, 2011

UCODS Book Club and Meetings: Wednesdays in History department

Look forward to:

Dr. Michael Springer, Curriculum Vitae Workshop

Dr. Stan Adamiak, The Realities of the Workforce: History Degree

UCODS Film Festival