From the Chair
Welcome to the fall edition of the History and Geography Department Newsletter. We are pleased to be offering many new opportunities for the fall semester, including the opportunity for graduate students to teach a semester of US history. The pilot program began this semester and we look forward to continuing it in the spring. We are also excited to welcome Geography instructor, Dr. Michelle Brym, to the teaching staff. In addition, our Passport to Canada event is ongoing and we look forward to carrying out our study tour to Canada next year. We are always open to your comments and suggestions, and hope you will enjoy this issue.
- Dr. Xiao-Bing Li

Department Welcomes New Geography Professor

UCO's Department of History and Geography extends a warm welcome to Dr. Michelle Brym as the newest assistant professor of Geography. Dr. Brym earned her undergraduate degree at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with a major in diplomacy and foreign affairs and a minor in Latin American studies. After completing her Master's degree in Geography at Miami University, Dr. Brym went on to receive her PhD from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, TN. She taught for a year at Central Michigan University before accepting a professorship at the University of Central Oklahoma.

When asked why she was drawn to geography, Dr. Brym responded, “Every discipline looks at the world differently. What I like about Geography is the discipline’s focus on the importance of place specific conditions and the interconnections between places in the attempt to understand the world we live in.” Dr. Brym believes the global economy makes geography very relevant today and provides a good reason to travel and learn about different cultures.

Her dissertation focused on how European Union (EU) integration has changed cross-border relationships at the Polish-German border. She plans to continue research on European integration, perhaps looking at how migration within Europe is generating new questions about the mobility of Europeans across nation-state borders.

Dr. Brym plans to begin a local research project applying these same ideas, such as migration to Oklahoma. Her goal is to offer upper-level students opportunities to participate in such research projects. Although she is new to the state, Dr. Brym is enjoying the supportive environment of the department and the sense of community offered by UCO students and staff. She is excited by the many things going on within the department and encourages students to become active and involved with the geography organization.
Department News

The Geography Student Organization

The Geography Student Organization has another full schedule of educational and social events in fall 2010. They include meetings, monthly foreign food nights, a field-service trip to South-Central Oklahoma, and the fall BBQ for students, alumni, and faculty/staff. For a schedule or more information about GSO events, please e-mail ucogeography@yahoo.com.

Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference

A number of UCO students participated in the Spring 2010 Phi Alpha Theta regional conference at Austin College in Sherman, Texas. Presenters included Deah Caldwell (“Anti-Feminist! Anti-Suffragist. Anti-Womanist?: The Pre-Political Career of Alice Mary Robertson”), Holly Hasenfratz (""Trying to Level the Rocky Mountains with a Toothpick:' Oklahoma’s Fight Against Socialism, October–December 1919"), Kenny Crowel ("Dowagers and Diplomats, 1919: William C. Bullitt’s Mission to Russia and Its Legacy"), Kayla Camp ("Progressive Louisiana: The Debate for Freedman’s Civil Liberties in the 1864 Constitutional Convention"), Mary Vick ("Woman of Vietnam: Layers of Oppression, Opportunities for Independence"), and Amanda Biles ("A Study in Song: Luther’s Concept of the Role of Hymns in the Reformation"). A special congratulations goes to Kathryn Hatfield, who won second place in the best undergraduate paper competition for her presentation on "War Correspondent: Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe’s Role in the Greek War for Independence, 1824-1830."

UCO’s James Madison Fellows

UCO is proud to have two students selected for James Madison Fellowships this year. Angela Dormiani and Pamela Duncan were selected through a national competition as part of an elite group of individuals desiring to become outstanding teachers of the American Constitution. To learn more about the James Madison Foundation and how to apply, click here.

“The James Madison Memorial Fellowship for secondary social studies teachers has been a very rewarding opportunity. Aside for paying my tuition to finish my masters degree in history, it also provided me the opportunity to study at George-town University for a summer. In my ninth year of teaching social studies at AS-TEC Charter High School, the courses taken here have significantly improved my content knowledge of my teaching assignments, and have made me more empathetic to my own students’ stresses of trying to balance studying, and the rest of life. I greatly appreciate each and every history professor I have had at UCO; they have really inspired and challenged me to be a better historian and teacher of history.”

- James Madison Fellow, Angela Dormiani
Save the Date, April 26th, 2011: “Uncorking Our Potential”

The Department of History and Geography will hold its second annual educational wine tasting event this spring to raise money for student scholarships. “Uncorking Our Potential,” last spring, focused on wines from the Martin Ray Winery in California’s Russian River Valley and featured alumna Amie Ledlow Hendrickson from Edmond Wine Shop. We raised more than $1300 for student scholarships, which will be awarded during the 2010-2011 academic year. To apply, please contact Dr. Michael Springer.

Graduate Student Colloquium Off to a Great Start!

This year marks the beginning of the first ever UCO Graduate Student Colloquium. The program is designed to enrich the graduate student experience and provide expanded opportunities for professional development. Included in the event lineup are topical lectures and how-to workshops such as “Building a Solid C.V.” and “Step by Step Grant Writing.” Dr. Doug Hurt opened the 2010-2011 schedule with a presentation of his recently published article “Reinterpreting the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site” and a discussion of the publishing process. The remaining fall schedule can be viewed below and graduate students are encouraged to attend as many colloquium events as possible. Specific requests for guest speakers or workshops should be directed to the Colloquium Organizational Committee or director, Amanda Biles at abiles@uco.edu. For colloquium event dates, click here.

Fellow graduate students, join us on the UCO Graduate Program in History facebook group.

Graduate Students Kick Off the Fall Semester

On August 18, the History and Geography Department graduate students and faculty members kicked off the fall semester with a welcome event at Hideaway Pizza. This event provided a great opportunity to meet and visit with one another before beginning semester classes.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER

Faculty Members

Dr. Brad Watkins received the 2010 Vanderford Research Award as well as the College of Liberal Arts New Faculty Member of the Year Award 2009-2010.

Dr. Patti Loughlin received the College of Liberal Arts Faculty Member of the Year Award 2009-2010.

Students

Congratulations to the following MA students, who successfully defended their theses last spring: Jennifer Alleman, Leslie Jones, Hugh Long, Kevin Seldon, Tabby Toney and Jeff Widener.

Salena Etzler was recognized as the 2009-2010 recipient of the Edward J. Pugh Outstanding Graduating Geographer Award.

Erin Karl (MA 2009) accepted a position as Executive Director for Stockyards City Main Street. We wish Erin the best of luck in her position.
SmARTies Trivia Night

This trivia competition was an event sponsored by the Oklahoma Museums Association and held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Our team from the Laboratory of History Museum (the Abnormal Normals) hovered around 4th or 5th place the entire evening, but considering there were 14 teams, we feel that this was pretty good. The event offered dinner and a silent auction as well as the competition. Our team consisted of eight members: five History/Museum Studies students – Sherry James, Codi Martinez, Jeremy Carey, Clary James, and Lacey Johnson; a UCO business major (and Codi’s significant other) Bret Warren and myself, Heidi Vaughn. Thomaira Babbit was also on our team but was unfortunately ill the night of the competition.

Mountain-Plains Museums Association Conference

The conference took place in Rapid City, South Dakota, September 13-17. Laboratory of History Museum TA and museum studies graduate student Clary James presented a paper at the conference, along with museum studies grad student Lacey Johnson. Both students were selected from a pool of applicants to present their papers. Clary and Lacey also applied for and received MPMA scholarships to the conference. Both students did an outstanding job with their presentations and volunteered with various conference events, including MPMA’s auctions which raise money for scholarships.

Heidi Vaughn, Director of the Laboratory of History Museum, chaired a session on museum technology and as well as the student papers session at the conference. Heidi is on the board of MPMA and serves as the chair for the Emerging Museum Professionals Committee. She organized a lunch and reception for students and new professionals and ushered former US Senator George McGovern to his conference speech. Heidi is also the chair of MPMA’s annual silent and live auctions. The money raised from the auctions provides scholarships to students and emerging museum professionals to attend the MPMA conference. This year, the auctions raised $6600 for scholarships.

Oklahoma Museums Association/American Association of State and Local History Joint Conference

The OMA and AASLH Conference took place in Oklahoma City, Sept. 22 - 25. This was a special conference in that the Oklahoma Museums Association (the state’s professional museum organization) teamed up with the American Association for State and Local History (a national professional history and museum organization) for their annual conferences.

Laboratory of History Museum TA Clary James presented a paper along with fellow museum studies students Lacey Johnson and Scarlet Bowman in the session “Opportunities and Applications: Students Research Local History.” Heidi Vaughn and Dr. Carolyn Pool were chairs for their session. This gave students an opportunity to present research papers to the museum community detailing how researching local history can be valuable to museums. Heidi Vaughn was also a panel member for the session, “Collections Inventories: Turning a Tornado into a Breeze,” and detailed the process of developing and conducting a museum collections inventory.
The Museum Welcomes New Staff and Volunteers

The museum welcomes TA’s Thomaira Babbit, Leigh Dudley and Clary James, intern Codi Martinez, and work study Jeremy Carey to the museum this semester. These wonderful museum studies students are working on individual projects in the museum as well as helping researchers, conducting museum tours, historical walking tours of campus, and museum scavenger hunts. The museum director is delighted to have such a bright, creative group of students to work with this semester. The LHM also welcomes the great museum studies student volunteers who are helping us with projects in the museum.

Filmmaker Jonathan Fein’s “Objects and Memory”

On Sept. 20 - 21, filmmaker Jonathan Fein joined us for a screening and illustrated lecture of his film, “Objects and Memory,” in Pegasus Theater. Both the film and lecture were sponsored by the Laboratory of History Museum and UCO’s College of Liberal Arts. Fein’s documentary won the 2010 Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History’s Leadership in History Awards.

European Study Tours

Laboratory of History Museum Director Heidi Vaughn is currently being trained to conduct European study tours as a part of the CaSTLE program (Creating a Study Abroad Leadership Experience). Vaughn, along with seven other faculty members and eight students, will be traveling to Europe over Spring Break 2011 for the “training” trip. The eight students will be selected from applications submitted to the program. For more information, email Dr. T.H. Baughman at tbaughman@uco.edu. This year’s trip will include visits to Paris and Strasbourg, France, the Swiss Alps, Amsterdam, and Bruges, Belgium. Vaughn will then have two years to develop a European study tour of her own. She plans to customize the tour for museum studies students by acquiring access to the behind-the-scenes work in European museums and view some of the greatest museum pieces in the world.

Recent Publications


Faculty Updates

Dr. Patti Loughlin has been selected to serve as program co-chair for the Western History Association Conference in 2011. Dr. Loughlin is also a new Board member of the Oklahoma Historical Society.

Heidi Vaughn is a newly elected Board Member At-Large for the Oklahoma Museums Association. She will serve a two-year term on the board of the Oklahoma Museums Association.

Mark Your Calendar

**November 12-14**
Geography Student Organization South-Central Oklahoma Field/Service Trip. The GSO will be creating new maps for Camp EKoWah, a Girl Scout facility in Stephens County.

**November 18**
Graduate Colloquium event, *Fall Potluck and Research Chat*, at 6:00pm

**November 19**
Geography Awareness Week lecture. Dr. Matt Engel, Northwest Missouri State University, will discuss his research on the implications of new prisons on small town economic development and sense of place.

**November Weekend TBA - Saturday Morning**
Graduate Colloquium event, *Step by Step Grant Writing*, with Dolores Mize

**December 23**
Christmas Break Begins

**January 10, 2011**
Spring Classes Begin

**April 26, 2011**
The second annual “Uncorking Our Potential,” fundraiser at the UCO Jazz Lab. More details soon!

Do you have news or events you would like to see in the newsletter? Would you like to have an electronic copy sent directly to your email account? If so, we would like to hear from you. Please contact the editor, Dr. Michael Springer, at mspringer@ucok.edu.

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