

History Notes

2008-2009

Editors: John Grabowski, Stephanie Liscio, and Jon Wlasiuk

News from Jonathan Sadowsky, Department Chair

These are optimistic times for the History Department. With the arrival this year of Peter Shulman in our position in the history of American technology, we not only renewed our historical strength in that area, but complemented the growing focus in environmental



history that was furthered last year by the arrival of John Broich, our new historian of modern Britain. While the department was sorry to lose Elisabeth Koll to an outside offer, we have been authorized to search for her replacement, as well as in an entirely new area for us, Latino and Chicano American history. In the past year, Miriam Levin was promoted to Professor, Marixa Lasso published her book *Myths of Harmony*, and Rhonda Williams was named one of the country's top young historians by History Network News. The department completed an ambitious 10-year strategic plan, which above all proposes to complement our traditional focus on United States history in



Mary Chisolm Painter Arch

our graduate program with increased attention to world and international history.



Rhonda Y. Williams

Rhonda Y. Williams named among History News Network's top young historians

Case Western Reserve University historian Rhonda Y. Williams was named a "Top Young Historian" by the History News Network. She joins a group of young researchers, recognized by the flagship online site that posts news about historians, historical research and current events.



Twenty historians from different fields in history were honored this year.

"Each historian on this list has made outstanding contributions to the discipline in their area of research through their commitment and achievement to scholarship and teaching. They are also highly regarded outside academia for their expertise, and many are consulted by the popular media," said Bonnie Goodman, HNN's assistant editor, in an online release.

First postdoctoral fellowship in African American Studies at CWRU

A new postdoctoral fellowship in African American studies has launched with the beginning of the 2008-2009 academic year at Case Western Reserve University. The fellowship is the first of its kind at the university and will be directed by Rhonda Y. Williams, associate professor of history.



Laila Haidarali and Rhonda Williams

Laila Haidarali is the program's first fellow, chosen through a rigorous search process and from an international pool of applicants. Haidarali earned her doctorate from York University in Toronto in 2007. Prior to that, she received her master's degree in history from University of Windsor, Windsor, Ontario, and her bachelor's degree in history at Brescia College, University of Western Ontario.

During her one-year residency as an African American Studies Fellow in the history department at Case Western Reserve, Haidarali will continue her research into African American women's history in the pre-civil rights era between 1920 and 1954. More specifically, Haidarali will examine ideas of beauty, sexuality, complexion and class among African American women.

Haidarali, as well as next year's fellow, will both be a part of the history department. In the third and subsequent years, Williams will decide to which other departments in the College of Arts and Sciences the fellowship will expand. Fellows in this program are required to teach an African American studies class in their appointed department in the spring semester. Haidarali will teach History 318: Black Women's History in Spring 2009. The courses will be cross-listed with the Ethnic Studies Program. Fellows also will give a lecture open to the entire university community.

Inaugural Ubbelohde Lecture brings renowned Historian to CWRU

Robin D.G. Kelley, an author and professor of American studies and ethnicity at the University of Southern California, spoke on the topic race and democracy before a large audience on



Robin D.G. Kelley

Thursday, October 16. His lecture, "Before Obama: How Black Folks Saved American Democracy" focused on how African-American political movements developed over time and influenced the candidacy of Barack Obama. His talk was the inaugural Carl Ubbelohde Lecture, a new lecture series sponsored by the Case Western Reserve University History Associates in memory of Carl Ubbelohde, former chair of the university's history department.

History Department Hosts two-day Symposium on "Rethinking Urban History"

CWRU History department faculty and graduate students participated in a two-day conference on the topic of Urban History. The symposium,



Max Page

which drew scholars from universities throughout the United States, allowed history department faculty to share their recent scholarship with colleagues. The CWRU Alumni House provided comfortable accommodations for participants and a public audience on November 13th and 14th. Max Page, Associate Professor of Architecture and History at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, delivered the keynote address "The City's End: Two Centuries of Fantasies, Fears, and Premonitions of New York's Destruction."

Faculty News.....

Molly Berger Published “Manon of Second Life: Teaching in the Virtual World,” in *Technology and Culture* 49 (April 2008): 430-41; and *ETC*, online journal of the Society for the History of Technology. The article is based on her experience in teaching First Seminar, FSNA 107 Culture and Computers, which she is teaching again Fall 2008. Dr. Berger will be commented on a session at SHOT in Lisbon in October 2008. Working with colleagues, she wrote a successful \$750,000 NSF grant for scholarships for teacher education students in STEM fields.

Daniel A. Cohen was on research leave for academic year 2007-8 with an AAS-NEH Long-Term Fellowship at the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts. He delivered two talks (and other less formal presentations) at the AAS in conjunction with that fellowship. In addition, in April 2008, Dr. Cohen delivered a talk entitled “Fanatical Protestants, Treacherous Catholics, Faithful Muslims: Political Re-Visions of the Charlestown Convent Riot, 1834-1855,” at the Annual Meeting of the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association, held in Miami, Florida.

In May 2008, he presented a paper entitled “Multiple Sanctions: Crime, Punishment, and Ideology in Early America,” at the Ninth Krefeld Historical Symposium (an invited conference on the theme of Religion and Politics: Transnational Approaches to the History of Religion and Political Order in Europe and the United States), held in Krefeld, Germany..

John Grabowski, Krieger-Mueller Associate Professor of Applied History authored *There are No Strangers at the Feast: Catholicism and Community in Northeastern Ohio*, a short essay-style illustrated overview of the regional Roman Catholic community. The book was prepared in conjunction with the Vatican Splendors exhibit which was hosted by the Western Reserve Historical Society where Grabowski now holds the position of Krieger-Mueller Historian as part of his joint appointment.

His article, “Forging New Links in the Early Turkish Migration Chain: The U.S. Census and early Twentieth Century Ships’ Manifests,” which was initially published in the *International Journal of Turkish Studies* was republished in *Turkish Migration to the United States: From Ottoman Times to the Present* (University of Wisconsin Press). He has also entered into contract with Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey, to prepare a history of the establishment and early years of Bilkent, Turkey’s first private, foundation-funded university. His Bilkent connection also involved a trip to Ankara with Deans Taylor and Neville of the College of Arts and Sciences in April to examine ways to enhance student and faculty exchanges between it and CWRU.

Grabowski also continues to edit the series “Voices of Diversity” for Kent State University Press. The next title, *Remembering: Cleveland’s Jewish Voices*, will be published in 2010. Additional titles relating to Slovenian, Italian, African, and Asian Indian immigrants are currently under contract for the series.

During the past year, Grabowski spoke at a number of regional venues on aspects of local history or immigration history. He was a featured commentator in the nationally broadcast documentary “Return of the Cuyahoga,” which was produced by Florentine Films. He also served as a panelist for the National Endowment for the Humanities program for museums and historical organizations.

David Hammack completed work this fall on a major grant-funded project, THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOUNDATIONS, which he has been directing with Helmut Anheier of the Center for Civil Society at UCLA. This project is producing two books: a historical and synthetic overview of the impact of foundations on American Society, and a longer edited volume of essays on the impacts of foundations on specific fields ranging from higher education and research to religion and social movements. It is likely that these books will be published in 2009 by the Brookings Institution Press. In Spring, 2008, Dr. Hammack received a grant from the Aspen Institute Nonprofit Sector Research Program for a third volume of the Contributions of Foundations project, this one dealing with foundations in America's regions. Dr. Hammack also published no fewer than three edited volumes and journal articles in the past year.

Faculty News...Cont'd.....

In the spring of 2008, the Latin American Studies Center of Columbia University invited **Marixa Lasso** to participate, along with nine other specialists, in the writing of an edited volume titled "Common Vocabularies, Different Perspectives New Political History on Nineteenth Century Latin America." Each specialist will write a chapter and participate in a two day meeting at Columbia to discuss their scholarship.

Dr. Lasso was also invited by the The University of Pennsylvania McNeil Center for Early American Studies to participate as a commentator in their Atlantic Emancipations Conference in April of 2008. In November, she delivered an invited talk for the "state-of-the-field" presentations at Pennsylvania State University 2008-2009 modern Latin American and Caribbean history speaker series.

Kenneth Ledford continued to edit *Central European History*, gave a talk on the "History of the Idea of Genocide" at a conference commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Genocide Convention in the School of Law in September, commented on three panels at the Annual Meeting of the German Studies Association in San Diego in October, and presented an invited lecture on the "The Constitution of the European Union: Continuities and Contingencies," at the Association of American Law Schools Mid-Year Conference on Constitutional Law in Cleveland in June. Together with Prof. Susanne Vees-Gulani of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, he organized a 5-day symposium in November on "Terrorism in Europe: The 'German Autumn' of 1977 after Thirty Years," with support from the Department of History and the Ohio Humanities Council. He also worked with Prof. John Grabowski to help initiate a project on the history of the United States Bankruptcy Court in the Northern District of Ohio. Besides teaching his normal load of courses and advising, he had extensive service obligations, including serving on the Faculty Senate, Chairing the Faculty Senate Budget Committee and the College of Arts & Sciences Executive Committee, helping to direct the College Strategic Planning process, and a broad variety of other committee assignments. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the American Society for Legal History and on the Board of Editors of its journal, the *Law and History Review*. He still works steadily on his book project, *Prussian Judges and the Rule of Law in Germany, 1848-1914*.

Miriam Levin was promoted to full professor in May. Her book manuscript *From Paris to Tokyo*, a comparative history of the rise of modern science-technology based culture in five cities during the second industrial revolution, has been accepted for publication by MIT Press. It is a collaborative effort of five scholars Dr. Levin lead arising out of four international workshops she organized funded by a NSF grant. At the SHOT fiftieth anniversary meeting in Washington, D.C., Dr. Levin commented on papers in a session on the history of regional systems. This fall she offered an innovative new course on Museums in a Globalizing World, taught jointly with Prof. Robert Kargon at Johns Hopkins University. It used videoconferencing to join students in Baltimore and Cleveland in studying museums as actors in national and international development, global cultural and economic change, and identity politics. Her book, *Defining Women's Scientific Enterprise*, was featured by the Mount Holyoke Club of Cincinnati to raise funds for their scholarship program. Art History department faculty at CWRU recently unanimously voted to give Dr. Levin a secondary appointment as full professor.

She presented a paper at our department's symposium on cities, she will also be giving an invited seminar paper to faculty and graduate students at Johns Hopkins University, an invited paper at the symposium in Lisbon on science and technology at international expositions sponsored by the Portuguese Academy of Sciences, and participating in a conference on Science and Technology in Asian Cities to be held at Johns Hopkins University in January 2009.



Faculty News...Cont'd.....

Jonathan Sadowsky completed his second year as department chair. He served as a judge for the Annual Welch Medal, awarded annually by the American Association for the History of Medicine to an outstanding book in the field, and is serving on the program and local arrangement committees for the AAHM's 2009 meeting in Cleveland. He continues to serve on the editorial boards for the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine and Culture, Medicine, and Psychiatry*. He was a finalist for the Diekhoff award for excellence in graduate teaching and was elected to the faculty senate. And he had a baby daughter, Julia Sadowsky.

Renée Sentilles will publish a book essay, "New Girls for the New (Twentieth) Century," *Journal of Women's History*, forthcoming Winter 2008. She also submitted an article to *Gender & History*: "Girlish Masculinity: American Girls and Boyish Pursuits at the Turn of the Twentieth Century." It was an exciting first year for Dr. Sentilles as undergraduate director last year, too. She focused on building up community energy by promoting the new history club, adding to the department's annual series of get-togethers with a "winter warm up," and producing a department t-shirt. She is excited to note the department of history is gaining majors at a greater rate than before.



Foyer of the Allen Memorial Medical Library

Ted Steinberg published a new edition of *Down to Earth: Nature's Role in American History* with Oxford University Press and is working on a new book about New York City's landscape.

Gillian Weiss spent the summer in France completing her book manuscript about French slaves in North Africa and conducting new research on the history of Muslim slaves in France. During the academic year Dr. Weiss gave presentations at the University of Toronto, Columbia, and the University of Washington.

In 2008, **Rhonda Y. Williams**, an associate professor of History at Case Western Reserve was honored by History News Network (HNN) as a Top Young Historian, and was appointed as director of CWRU's social justice strategic initiative by the university's president, Barbara R. Snyder. In addition to this honor and appointment, Dr. Williams also chaired the university's search committee for its inaugural Vice President for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity, and launched in 2008 CWRU's Postdoctoral Fellowship in African American Studies. She serves as the fellowship's director.

Dr. Williams's recent publications include a co-edited special issue of the *Radical History Review* 101 (Spring 2008) entitled, *Women, Transnationalism, and Human Rights*, and a forthcoming essay entitled, "'Something's Wrong Down Here': Poor Black Women and Urban Struggles for Democracy" in *African American Urban History Since World War II*, edited by Kenneth Kusmer and Joe W. Trotter. Her current research focuses on three different areas: drugs and culture in post-World War II cities, community action and the War on Poverty, and municipal politics and Black Power.

Graduate Student News.....

Tony Andersson is studying environmental history and policy, with a focus on fresh water. He is currently interning with the Center for Biodiversity at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, helping to catalog endangered plant species in the wetlands of northeast Ohio and western Pennsylvania. This winter, he will be traveling to El Salvador to study community development and sustainable agriculture.

Lyz Bly is currently working on her dissertation, *Generation X and the Invention of Third Wave Feminism*, and plans to finish the project in May 2009. Last year, she was the recipient of a travel grant from the Sophia Smith Women's History Manuscripts at Smith College; she traveled to Smith in March to conduct research, focusing on the archive's women's liberation collection. Lyz was awarded her second consecutive History Associates dissertation fellowship last spring, and in May, in conjunction with the award, gave a talk on her dissertation to faculty, students, and History Associate members. At the end of spring semester she finished a two-year term as Graduate Student Association Co-Leader and Representative to Department Faculty. This fall she's teaching History 248: History of Late 20th Century Popular Culture, as well as a SAGES seminar, USSY 279: Navigating Contemporary Art.

Sam Duncan is a first year graduate student. His path toward a career in history has been a long one. Before undergraduate study Sam spent six years in the US Army, completing two tours of duty in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division. After leaving the military, Sam initially wanted to pursue a career in public history (museum studies in particular), and spent a summer interning with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. Although that experience was unbelievably rich, Sam ultimately decided to pursue a career that would allow him to research, write, and teach history in a more traditional setting. He chose to study at Case because of the strong representation among the faculty in his field of interest, Environmental History. Sam is particularly interested in the intersection between cultural and environmental history with regards to commodification of natural resources.



The Western Reserve Historical Society Library

Emily Hess is beginning her second year of the PhD program. With her coursework finished, Emily has started preparing for comprehensive exams. She is a visiting instructor of history at Ashland University for the 2008-2009 school year. This past year Emily wrote several entries for the *Encyclopedia of Jim Crow* (Greenwood Press: October 2008) and attended an NEH Landmarks of American Democracy workshop "From Freedom Summer to the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike" in Jackson, Mississippi. She continues to volunteer as an interview evaluator for *The HistoryMakers*, an African-American history archive, and serve as an editor for H-Net, Humanities and Social Sciences Online.

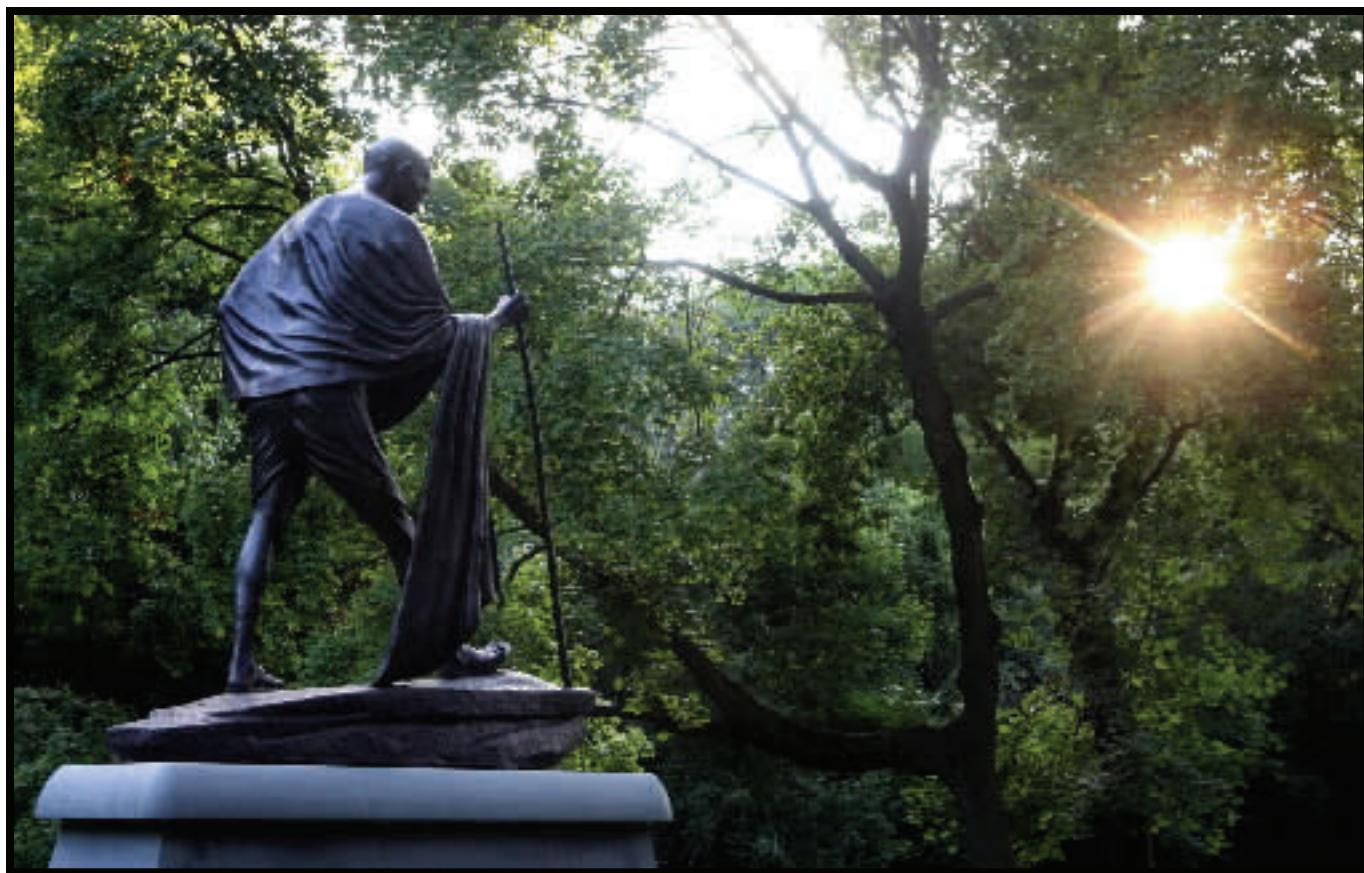
Judith Northwood finished her second year in the STEM Ph.D. program in 2008, and with it her course requirements. It was also the first full year that she was a Teaching Assistant for HSTY 113 (Introduction to Modern World History), for which she won the 2008 Ubbelohde Award. In the spring, she also spent her second year volunteering as a judge for the History Day district competition on CWRU campus. The 2008-2009 year has her returning as the Junod Fellow, her central focus turning to preparation for qualifying exams, but that effort hit a slowdown after some medical challenges over the summer. She started work in August with Kelvin Smith Library Special Collections on the Brush Digitization Project, capturing digital images of the Charles F. Brush collection for internet accessibility to scholars worldwide. In addition, she continues her work as a research assistant for Jonathan Sadowsky and began handling the role of Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty. Her volunteer activities for the past few years have included teaching painting at several major game conventions, and this past summer GAMA, the trade association for game manufacturers in America and organizers of the Origins game convention, promoted her to Dean of the Art College at Origins, an area director position. This promotion places her in charge of organizing a full schedule of art seminars and workshops for attendees of the five-day convention in June of 2009, recruiting instructors/panelists for each event, maintaining records for GAMA staff and overseeing the events during the convention. This has also led to Judith being among a small group of artists working together to form an artists' guild within the game industry.

Graduate Student News Continued.....

Elizabeth Salem is beginning her fourth year in the Ph.D. program, and is presently studying for comprehensive exams. Her article, “The Problem of ‘Female Inebriety,’ 1870-1920,” was published in the March-April 2008 issue of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology’s *Clinical Review*. Beth also gave a Grand Rounds lecture, “‘Inebriety,’ Women’s Health, and the Evolution of American Medicine,” to the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at The Ohio State University in early August. When not at Case, she is currently working as the Librarian and Collections Manager at The Great Lakes Historical Society and Inland Seas Maritime Museum in Vermilion, Ohio. In September, she gave a talk on the Society’s most recent archaeological project, an underwater survey of the Battle of Lake Erie battle and anchorage sites, to the National Park Service at Perry’s Victory and International Peace Memorial in Put-in-Bay, Ohio.

Ben Sperry is deep into the writing phase of his dissertation on the topic of elite white moderates in 1940s and 1950s Mississippi and their role in social change. David Hammack is his advisor.

Jonathan Wlasiuk is finishing the final chapter of his dissertation, *Refining Nature: Standard Oil and the Urban Ecology of the Kerosene Age, 1863-1904*. In the Spring semester, Jonathan will teach HSTY 338: History of the American West at CWRU as instructor of record and present his scholarship at the annual meeting of the American Society for Environmental History in Tallahassee, Florida. He continues to produce articles for and edit the *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History* as a Besse Fellow.



Statue commemorating Mohandas Gandhi’s Salt March in the India cultural garden of Rockefeller Park

History Student Awards...



Kelvin Smith Library—Home away from Home for many History students

Graduate Student Prizes and Awards for 2008

The Ubbelohde Award for the best teaching assistant during the last year:

Judith Northwood

History Associates Fellowship recipients:

Lyz Bly, Jon Wlasiuk

Kranzberg Price for the best MA thesis defended in the previous year:

Genevieve Mathieson

The Junod Fellowship for research done in Industrial history:

Judith Northwood

Undergraduate Student Prizes and Awards for 2008

DONALD GROVE BARNES AWARD to a senior for excellence in research and writing of history:

Jeffrey Lowry

CLARENCE H. CRAMER AWARD for excellence in research and writing of history:

Ashley Solomon and Wei Wu

ANNIE SPENCER CUTTER PRIZE to a senior for outstanding achievement in history (by custom to a woman):

Jessica Agus

SIGMA PSI PRIZE IN HONOR OF ELBERT J. BENTON for excellence in history:

Ciera Herron

JOHN HALL STEWART PRIZE for excellence in historical studies:

Laura Ansley and Joshua Alvarez

THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT AWARD for exceptional achievement:

Stephanie Ash and Amy Rohmiller



Harkness Chapel

The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History

by John Grabowski, Editor, *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History*

During the past year the staff of the *Encyclopedia of Cleveland History/Dictionary of Cleveland Biography* continued the process of updating entries and adding new entries to the on-line edition (<http://ech.case.edu>). John Grabowski, Krieger-Mueller Associate Professor of Applied History serves as editor for the on-line publication. During the past year, History graduate students Joshua Palmer and Jonathan Wlasiuk served as Besse Fellow Associate Editors. In June 2008, graduate student Stephanie Liscio joined the staff as the new Besse Fellow when Josh Palmer completed two years of work on the project. Each Associate Editor has assumed responsibility for updating entries and writing new entries that center upon their particular subject interests. Josh Palmer's interest in environmental history allowed him to update and expand entries relating to parks and the park system in Northeast Ohio. Jonathan Wlasiuk has focused his work on labor and environmental history, with a "side trip" into popular culture. Stephanie Liscio's interest in baseball and sport history has provided much needed expertise to update the ever changing history of sports in Northeastern Ohio.

In addition to overseeing the editorial work on the *Encyclopedia*, John Grabowski also continued to seek additional funds for upgrading the website and expanding staff. He secured an estimate for the full upgrade of the web site, which includes attention to a new look as well as provide new document structures which will enhance searches and editorial work, as well as open the on-line edition to the use of a variety of non-text information. That proposal is now being shopped to potential funders by the development staff of the College of Arts and Sciences. He and the associate editors also met with the staff of Digital Case to discuss ways of enhancing the connection between the edited updated version of the *Encyclopedia* which is maintained by Information Services and the digitally archived version maintained at Digital Case. Digital Case will now "harvest" the content of the updatable version of the *Encyclopedia* on an annual basis. This will provide staff and researchers with an incredibly important and secure record of editorial change within par-

News and Events from the Dittrick Medical History Center

by James M. Edmonson, Chief Curator

We concluded a busy summer at the Dittrick and entered the academic year with a number of exciting recent developments and several noteworthy coming attractions. Our activities to report on include collecting and research in the collections, and encompass coming lectures and celebrations, notably the *Year of Darwin*. We particularly look forward to seeing you at the Handerson lecture in March.

We are pleased to announce that M. Donald Blafox, M.D., has donated to the Dittrick a remarkable collection of drawings of historic stethoscopes. Dr. Blafox chairs the Department of Nuclear Medicine at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center in New York City, is a former chairman of the American Board of Nuclear Medicine, and is the Co-Editor of the *Seminars in Nuclear Medicine*, and the *Yearbook of Nuclear Medicine*. With this history behind us, Dr. Blafox recently contacted me to discuss the disposition of some materials from his collection. Specifically, he had about 130 hand drawn images of historic stethoscopes, from Laennec's original (1816) monaural stethoscope through binaural models in the 1920s. He decided to donate this unique collection to the Dittrick as a fitting complement to our extensive collection of stethoscopes and other instruments for auscultation.

Susequent to this gift, Dr. Blafox informed us that before the close of 2008 he will donate his collection of instruments for blood pressure determination (sphygmomanometers) and auscultation (stethoscopes). This is the largest collection of such instruments in private hands, and this gift will make the Dittrick's collection in these areas the most comprehensive of any museum in North America. Dr. Blafox's gift will precipitate a refurbishing of our balcony display on the history of diagnostic instruments. The revamped and updated display will take into account the insights and perspective of three decades of fresh contributions to our understanding of the relationship of medicine and technology.

Finally, the Dittrick is leading the planning for the 82nd annual meeting of the American Association for the History of Medicine, to take place at the Intercontinental Hotel, April 23-26, 2009.

History Day 2008

by John Vacha, District 3 Coordinator

History Day 2008 was a success at all levels, as Ohio District 3 set local district participation records, dominated the state contest in Columbus, and made an impressive showing at the national contest in College Park, Maryland.

A total of 493 area intermediate and senior high school students registered for the District 3 contest, which took place on the Case Western Reserve University campus on March 15. It was the greatest number by a considerable margin since the district contest returned to its original home in 1997. National History Day was started as a local contest by the late Professor David Van Tassel of the CWRU history department in 1974.

District 3 winners went on to sparkle at Ohio History Day in Columbus in April, where they won a total of nineteen places as national finalists or alternatives, giving them the opportunity to compete in National History Day in June. Hannah and Timothy Miller, a brother and sister from Hawken School in Gates Mills, brought home the bronze as their senior group performance on “The Armenian Tragedy” won third place in the national competition.

Melissa Freilich of Shaker Heights School won sixth place and a \$5,000 scholarship from the History Channel for her paper on “The Altalena Affair.” In addition, a Shaker student placed eighth nationally in senior individual performances; a group from CROWN Academy home school won a seventh for senior web site, and a group from Shaker took thirteenth place for senior group documentary.

“Conflict and Compromise in History” was the theme for History Day 2008. Students from sixth through twelfth grades compete in one of five categories: papers, web sites, performances, documentaries, and exhibits. Several members from CWRU’s history department volunteered to assist in judging the district contest. They included Professor John Grabowski, graduate students Richard Cartabuke, Judith Northwood, Ben Sperry, and Adam Waldinger; and History Associates members Virginia Dawson, Roger Ingraham, Roger Solomon, and Tiffany Willey.

Planning is well underway for History Day 2009. Judging invitations will be sent to departmental members in January for the district contest, which will take place on campus March 21. This year’s theme is “The Individual in History: Actions and Legacies.”

History Associates’ Tenth Year

by Virginia Dawson, President

History Associates of Case Western Reserve University, in its eleventh year, continues to flourish. Our mission is to raise funds for the History Department to be used for the benefit of graduate students and faculty. Last year we were able to award several grants to graduate students each year and offer them modest financial support for dissertation research. We also contributed to the year’s prizes for outstanding work by undergraduates. In addition, we have raised funds for an endowed lectureship, named for a beloved and respected professor, the late Carl W. Ubbelohde.

The inaugural Carl W. Ubbelohde Endowment Fund Lecture, presented by Professor Robin Kelley, took place on October 16. Kelley’s talk, “Before Obama: How Black Folks Saved American Democracy,” was both engaging and provocative. We are pleased to announce that Professor Michael Grossberg, former chair of the History Department, has agreed to speak at next year’s event. We hope to make the lectureship self-sustaining through continued donations from History Associates members and friends of the history department.

With the History Department we also helped sponsor a symposium on the city, entitled “Rethinking Urban History: Technology, Environments, and Politics,” which took place November 13-14. Our spring programs will feature a talk by Peter Shulman, a new member of the History Department faculty, and our traditional end-of-the-year program featuring the research of graduate students.

Images from the Opening Reception welcoming new graduate students at the Western Reserve Historical Society



-----Support History Associates-----

Becoming involved with History Associates is an excellent opportunity to meet and work with folks, who, amongst all of their other commitments, are dedicated to providing students in the History Department with more than a valuable classroom experience. They are supporters of scholarship and professional development, encouraging students to "do more," and truly have our best interests at heart.

- Tiffany Wiley, M.A., History

I received a grant from History Associates in December 2003 when I was just starting research for my dissertation. With the History Associates Grant, I was able to fund research-related expenses in the spring and summer of 2004, traveling to key collections in Indiana, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

- Aaron Alcorn, Ph.D. Candidate, History

Please enroll me as a member of CWRU History Associates, and send me your calendar of events as soon as possible. I am joining at the membership level indicated below.

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