Report from the Department Chair

Have I mentioned that I really like this department? It only gets better. In the Spring of this year, we added a new faculty member, Ananya Dasgupta, who recently completed her Ph.D. in the South Asian Studies program at the University of Pennsylvania. She is the first tenure-track specialist in that region to teach in this department.

We also have a new Department Assistant, Bess Weiss; she and Emily Sparks are proving to be a great team in the department office.

History Associates continues to support the graduate program with fellowships, and to add to the intellectual life of the department with the annual Ubbelohde lecture, which was given this year by Janice Radway of Northwestern University.

As you will see as you read the rest of this newsletter, our faculty and students continue to be extremely active in publishing books and articles, and winning major fellowships. It is a privilege to work here.

History Department Welcomes Post-Doctoral Fellowship Recipient, Dr. Shannen Dee Williams

Dr. Shannen Dee Williams is the 2013-2014 Postdoctoral Fellow in African-American studies at Case Western Reserve University. She earned her Ph.D. in African-American and United States history and a graduate certificate in women's and gender studies from Rutgers University on May 19, 2013. For the 2012-2013 academic year, Dr. Williams was a lecturer in the history department at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, where she was named “Professor of the Year,” by the Black Affairs Council and the Black Graduate Student Association. In the fall of 2014, she will join the faculty of the University of Tennessee at Knoxville as an assistant professor of United States and African-American history.

Dr. Williams is currently revising her dissertation, “Subversive Habits: Black Nuns and the Struggle to Desegregate Catholic America after World War I,” into a book manuscript. Her study unearths the hidden history of black sisters in the fight to dismantle racial and gender barriers in the U.S. Catholic Church. When completed, it will be the first historical monograph on black Catholic sisters in twentieth-century America.

Dr. Williams earned a B.A. (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) in history from Agnes Scott College in 2004 and a M.A. in Afro-American studies from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 2006. Her research has been supported by a Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Fellowship (in Religion and Ethics) from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, an Albert J. Beveridge Grant from the American Historical Association, the Huggins-Quarles Award from the Organization of American Historians, the Drusilla Dunjee Houston Award from the Association of Black Women Historians, and the John Tracy Ellis Dissertation Award from the American Catholic Historical Association.


In June 2013, Jay Geller gave the keynote address at the University College London (UCL) Institute of Jewish Studies annual conference. This subject of this year’s conference was the life and work of the Jewish thinker Gershom Scholem, and Geller’s talk was entitled “The Scholem Family in German and German-Jewish Historical Context.” He also spoke at the University of Minnesota Center for Jewish Studies on the letters, diaries, and memoir of Gershom Scholem. He helped organize a weekend-long series of events on the life and work of the German-Jewish architect Erich Mendelsohn, which took place in March 2013 at the Park Synagogue in Cleveland Heights, an original building by Mendelsohn; among these events, he gave two talks and moderated one forum discussion.

John Grabowski has joined the editorial advisory board for the *Journal of Ankara Studies (Ankara Araştırmaları Dergisi)*, an interdisciplinary biannual refereed journal, in Turkish and English, which focuses on the history of Ankara, Turkey, published by the Vehbi Koç and Ankara Research Center (VEKAM) in Ankara. Grabowski’s article, “The Past as Prologue: Public Authority and the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History” was published in *The Public Historian,* as part of series “New Directions in Urban Encyclopedias” which appeared in the May 2013 issue.

Regionally Speaking, a series of programs moderated by Gladys Haddad, Professor of American Studies, is broadcast weekly on Case Western Reserve University WRUW-FM 91.1 and permanently archived in podcasts. More information can be found at the Regionally Speaking website, www.case.edu/artsci/wrss/. A blog and podcasts can be found at blog.case.edu/wrss/. Several featured programs in fall 2013 focus on the Social Justice Alliance and Institute, founded and directed by history's Rhonda Y. Williams.


In the spring of 2013, Marixa Lasso was awarded two prestigious fellowships, the ACLS and the National Humanities Center, to work on her book project about the depopulation of the Panamanian towns of the Canal Zone. She is currently at the National Humanities Center working on her new book manuscript. She published two academic articles: “Nationalism and immigrant labor in a tropical enclave: The West Indians of Colón City, 1850-1936,” in the journal Citizenship Studies and “Los grupos
Miriam Levin lectured by invitation on “Modernity’s Perspective” at the Bryn Mawr College Center for Visual Culture in May 2013. At the 24th International Congress of Science, Technology and Medicine in Manchester, UK, she presented a paper on “Science and Social Change: The case of Ginling College” in the symposium on “Expanding Women’s Sphere” and commented on papers in the session on “Knowledge for Use.” She continued on the editorial board of ICON and on the National Screening Committee for the Fulbright-Hays Program for Post-Graduate research grants to France. In May 2014 she will conduct research in South Africa for her book on science education for women at foreign missionary colleges, funded by the History Department's Flora Stone Mather endowment grant supporting women faculty's research.


Ted Steinberg’s new book, Gotham Unbound: The Ecological History of Greater New York, will be published by Simon & Schuster in the spring of 2014. You can learn more about what Ted has been up to at tedsteinberg.com/.
Graduate Student News ...

**John Baden** presented a paper at a panel discussion on immigrants in the city at the 2013 Society for American City and Regional Planning History Conference in Toronto, Canada. He is currently writing his written comprehensive exams, and preparing for his dissertation.

**Daniel Belczak** will publish a review of the book, *Sacred Relics: Pieces of the Past in Nineteenth-Century America* in the *Journal of American Culture*. Additionally, he will be presenting a lecture on the recent movie *Lincoln* and its place as a piece of popular culture and as a work of popular history. Both during the Spring and Fall of 2013 he was a Graduate Teaching Assistant for World History (HSTY 113), delivering lectures on the Vietnam War, China and its interactions with Europe, and World War I.

**Sanford (Sandy) Clark** continues working toward his STEM-track Ph.D. His exhibit on Civil War Nursing, “Nursing’s Echo” is on display at the Dittrick Medical History Center through January. He is the current Communications Officer for the History of Science Society’s Graduate and Early Career Caucus, organizing events at their annual meeting and managing their online presence. Clark has presented at conferences for the American Association for the History of Nursing and the History of Science Society this year.

**Ben Demko** has finished his master’s thesis, titled “Urban Revitalization in Cleveland: A Case Study on Cleveland’s Empowerment Zone, 1994–2004,” which assesses the adequacy of Cleveland’s approach to social and economic development in relation to the broader “Urban Poverty Debate” (the competing views historians and others about the rise and persistence of an urban “underclass”). He expects to graduate this semester with an M.A. He has recently been able to apply his academic interests to a new position with Key Bank, where he serves as a market researcher, exploring economic and demographic drivers at the national and Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) levels, to develop informed, forward-looking perspectives for use in managing risk and allocating resources.

**Nathan Delaney** won a 2013 Graduate Scholarship Award from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The DAAD fellowship allows him to spend the 2013–2014 academic year in Berlin, Germany, conducting research for his dissertation, which examines the copper trade among three industrializing countries—the United States, Germany and Mexico—and assesses that industry’s impact on local communities and environments during the second industrial revolution. In July 2013, he took part in the Pan-American Advanced Studies Institute (PASI), a digital humanities workshop funded by the National Science Foundation held in Guatemala City. He will present a paper on “Transnational Liberalism: Two German Mining Firms in Nineteenth-Century Mexico” at the 2014 Business History Conference in Frankfurt, Germany.

**Sam Duncan** will present a paper titled, “Making Cents of Water: Bottled Water Marketing, Consumption, and the Meaning of Natural,” at the 2014 meeting of the Organization of American Historians in Atlanta, Georgia.

**Lynne Graziano** presented a paper at the 2013 annual meeting of the Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science (SAHMS). The paper, “Promoting Promises and Marketing Miracles: An Overview of Hospital Advertising,” grew out of her 2012–2013 research assistantship with David Hammack. It is awaiting peer review to be published in *Ageless Arts*, a new online journal established by SAHMS. She will present a paper based on an early chapter draft of her dissertation at SAHMS this February entitled, “‘Us Women Ain’t Livestock’: American Women, Physicians, and Contraceptive Conflict in the 1930s.” In her work as an educational research consultant, Lynne just completed grant writing and research as part of a team seeking a $20 million Race to the Top-District grant for a California public charter school organization that specializes in high-quality, personalized education for low-income, English Language Learner elementary students.

**Elise Hagesfeld** is collaborating on two chapters in an upcoming volume, edited by David Hammack and Steven Rathaegh Smith, about the work of philanthropic foundations in American regions. She continues to write her dissertation, “Saving the World by Saving Its Children: The Birth of the Modern Child Welfare Agency and the Children’s Homes of the National Benevolent Association of the Disciples of Christ, 1887-1974.” Hagesfeld attended the annual conference for the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action in November, and remains an active student representative to the History Associates board.

In fall 2013, Emily Hess successfully defended her dissertation, “Wrinkled Radicals: Maggie Kuhn, the Gray Panthers, and the Battle Against Ageism.” Earlier in 2013, she was a recipient of the History Associates Fellowship, spoke to several organizations and seminars concerning her research, and presented on an interdisciplinary panel at the American Political Science Association. She continues to teach full-time at Ashland University and is training for the 2014 Boston Marathon.

Madison Ivan received the George S. Traub Fellowship to work on her master’s thesis for summer 2013. She plans to defend her thesis, which is on prostitution in Cleveland, 1866–1915, in early March 2014 and graduate with both her B.A. and M.A. degrees in May 2014.

Jonathan Kinser has continued his work at Pubco Corporation and recently accepted a promotion. He now holds the title of Director of Social Media Marketing at Smith Corona Corporation, the venerable old typewriter company, which is now a subsidiary of Pubco and produces thermal label products. In addition to his work at Pubco, Kinser was recently elected Vice President of the CWRU Graduate Student Senate (GSS). As Vice President, Kinser has been working to increase the length of the book loan period for CWRU graduate students from Kelvin Smith Library, and has renewed the university’s interest for increased fundraising efforts for the GSS Verhosek Fund, which provides small travel awards to graduate students presenting at conferences.

Elizabeth Salem is continuing work on her dissertation, which focuses on the origins of the concept of drug and alcohol addiction during the nineteenth century. She was awarded a research fellowship from History Associates and presented her work at their annual graduate student presentations in May. Over the summer, Beth completed a term as the History Fellow at the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Washington, D.C., and again served as a reader for the Advanced Placement United States History Exam. This fall, she is working as a research assistant for Dr. John Flores and Dr. Jonathan Sadowsky.

Barrett Sharpnack graduated from Kent State University in 2011 with a Bachelor’s degree in history and the Golden Pen Award in historical writing. His current research interests include the history of technology, specifically weapons technology, and the history of firearms legislation. At the moment, Mr. Sharpnack is working on his master’s thesis, which will examine federal firearms legislation in the United States in the early twentieth century.

Graduate Degrees Awarded

**PH.D. GRADUATES:**

Paul Lubieniecki (Summer 2013)

**M.A. GRADUATES:**

Scott Lillard (January 2013)
Katherine Schaub (Summer 2013)
Katie Schroeder (Summer 2013)
Joseph Verbovszy (Spring 2013)

Graduate Prizes and Awards, 2012-2013

**THE UBBELOHDE AWARD** for the best teaching assistant during the last year:

Jonathan Kinser & Michael Metsner

**HISTORY ASSOCIATES FELLOWSHIP** recipients:

Sanford Clark, Emily Hess, Elizabeth Salem,
& Jesse Tarbert

**THE KRANZBERG PRIZE** goes to the graduate student with the best M.A. thesis:

Katherine Schaub, for a thesis entitled: “Rape as a Legitimate Medical Event from 1800–1910,” (advisor: Jonathan Sadowsky)

**THE FRANK R. BORCHERT, JR. PRIZE IN HISTORY** for the best dissertation or thesis by a student in the History Department, with preference to topics related to education, architecture, music, and U.S. History, 1900-1940:


Undergraduate Prizes and Awards, 2012-2013

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

Alex Avdakov & Andrew Slivka

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

Brandon Riedlinger

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

Emile Katz & Dustin Likens

**JOHN HALL STEWART PRIZE** for excellence in historical studies:

Elizabeth Vitale

**THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT AWARD** for exceptional achievement:

Mark Zucker & Madison Ivan
An Interview with Professor Ananya Dasgupta
By John Baden

Assistant Professor Ananya Dasgupta join the History Department faculty in fall 2013. She specializes in modern South Asian history spanning the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Dasgupta earned her Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in 2013. Previously, she earned an M.A. and M. Phil. from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India.

Q: Where are you from?
Dasgupta: I grew up in Kolkata, formerly called Calcutta—it’s a city in the eastern part of India. After college, I moved to Delhi for higher education and worked there as a journalist for a few years. And then I moved to the U.S. to attend graduate school and lived in Philadelphia. In some ways, I like to think that I’m from all these places.

Q: How did living in these locations affect your worldview and approach to history?
Dasgupta: Even though my own work explores the history of nationalism, living in different places has alerted me to the gains of looking beyond nationalist frames. I am increasingly drawn to connected histories, which trace trade routes, the flow of labor, commodities, and ideas to and fro from South Asia to other parts of the world, and the conditions under which such flows occurred. Of course colonialism is part of the story, but there are longer and different histories of such movements too.

Q: Tell us about your project
Dasgupta: My project tries to understand how and why the Pakistan movement—a demand for a separate Muslim nation-state—took root in society. My research focuses specifically on the articulation of the demand for Pakistan in the colonial Indian province of Bengal, a part of which is now Bangladesh (and was until 1971, the eastern part of Pakistan). Instead of focusing exclusively on prominent political leaders and institutional party politics to explain the demand for a separate Muslim nation, I’m interested in understanding the Pakistan movement from the bottom-up, not from the top-down. So I study, for example, the less prominent actors and institutions, such as the ordinary Muslim peasant or the charismatic religious leader at the village-level, the little known activities of Muslim civil society associations operating in the smaller towns of Bengal, and the workings of local Muslim literary societies to understand how a culture of leftist populism coupled with re-interpretations of Islam found expression in the demand for Pakistan. Currently, I am working on converting my dissertation into a book.

Q: What are some of the misconceptions about the region you study?
Dasgupta: Of the many misconceptions, one of the most enduring is that the politics of religious nationalism in South Asia is some kind of a residual form of the traditional, the archaic, or the non-
modern. But a historical approach to the study of such politics show how they depend on decided-ly modern interpretations of religion, how Islam and Hinduism, for instance, were impacted by Western ideas during colonialism, and experienced what some scholars have termed “protestantization” at the level of theology and praxis, and indeed, in making religion a basis for political ideology.

Q: What is a good book about South Asia?

Dasgupta: Since Gandhi is one name that is instantly and almost universally recognizable, I would recommend Shahid Amin’s Event, Metaphor, Memory. It’s a classic. It deals with one event commonly known as the “Chauri Chaura,” which refers to anti-police riots in a small north Indian town in 1922, at the height of the non-cooperation movement against the British led by M.K Gandhi. Some peasant “rioters” burnt down a police station and killed more than 20 constables, all the while invoking “Mahatma Gandhi.” Appalled by the violence, Gandhi suspended the movement. Subsequently, for the anti-colonial nationalist leadership and nationalist historiography alike, the Chauri Chaura incidents became a trope for all forms of anarchic peasant violence to be understood in opposition to disciplined, non-violent mass resistance of the Gandhian, and by extension, “truly nationalist” variety. Juxtaposing official archives with oral history, Shahid Amin’s book shows how the peasant volunteers of the civil disobedience movement elaborated on Gandhi’s teachings in their own way; not only did they believe themselves to be Gandhians, but, indeed, locally they were legitimately known as volunteers of the nationalist movement. The book traces how the rioting volunteers were transformed by court records, and eventually in public memory, into common criminals. It tells a different history of nationalism—a history from below, and explores the politics and maneuvers involved in making nationalist hagiographies of the great and the good, as it were.

Q: What is a class you would like to teach?

Dasgupta: I see a lot of interest in Indian cinema among the students I teach, so I think it would be interesting to teach a course which deals simultaneously with two themes: the history of Indian cinema as well as the transformations of representations of historical events and figures in Indian cinema over a period of time. Maybe I will call it “Indian Cinema: History in Film and Film in History”

Q: Who are some of the people that have influenced you?

Dasgupta: In terms of history writing, I am most indebted to the historians of the Subaltern School. My own research had a strong micro-history orientation—obviously Carlo Ginzburg has been a big influence on me too.

Q: What have you enjoyed so far about Cleveland?

Dasgupta: I haven’t had a chance to explore the city as much as I would like to. The Cleveland Museum of Art is an amazing institution, it’s free, and it’s right next-door. One of my colleagues took me to the Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards (which recognizes works that have made significant contributions to our understanding of racism and promotes appreciation of diversity) at the Playhouse Square soon after I moved here. Book readings were part of the event, which was wonderful—I love being read to! On the weekends, I enjoy taking walks in the Lakeview Cemetery.
The Flora Stone Mather Fund and Faculty Research

The Department’s location in Mather House, a former women’s dormitory situated on the Mather Quad of the University, gives it a direct physical link to the history of women at Western Reserve University and Case Western Reserve University. That link became even stronger in 2010 when Professor Miriam Levin approached the Mather College Alumni Association, which was then disbanding, and asked its officers to consider creating an endowed fund to support research by tenure-track women faculty in our department. The Association agreed. The Flora Stone Mather Fund at the Department was established in 2010–2011 and now provides an annual award of $5,000 to female tenured or tenure-track faculty for research in any field, albeit with a preference for work in women’s history. Four faculty members, Renee Sentilles, Marixa Lasso, Gillian Weiss, and Miriam Levin, have been selected as Flora Stone Mather Fellows. The availability of this funding has advanced research by our current faculty and it serves an incentive in recruiting new faculty. It is also an important signifier of the Department’s commitment to its own diversity.

Recent Books Published by Alumni

Susan Schmidt Horning  
*Chasing Sound: Technology, Culture, and the Art of Studio Recording from Edison to the LP.*  

Raymond Betts, with Lyz Bly  
Routledge, 2013.

David Hochfelder  
*The Telegraph in America, 1832–1920.*  

Lyz Bly and Kelly Wooten, eds.  
*Make Your Own History: Documenting Feminist and Queer Activism in the 21st Century.*  
The key to the success of the on-line Encyclopedia of Cleveland History are the endowments that support the staff and editor. The Besse and Friedman funds allow the project to provide full and partial graduate stipends to two students each year who serve as Associate Editors, while the endowed Krieger-Mueller professorship in applied history supports the editorial oversight of the Encyclopedia.

This year Jesse Tarbert became the new Besse Fellow for the Encyclopedia replacing Nathan Delaney who had completed two years on the project. Nathan is now in Germany conducting research supported by a prestigious award from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). John Baden continues as Besse Fellow this year focusing on building the series of maps now available in the on-line edition and reworking entries relating to neighborhoods and planning areas. Jesse Tarbert will be updating and creating new entries focusing on Cleveland’s late Progressive and “post-Progressive” politics.

The most important pending change for the on-line edition will be move to a new content management system. We will be moving to the Terminal 4 CMS, hopefully in the coming year. That shift will allow easier addition of non-textual materials from the collections of the Western Reserve Historical Society and also simplify the updating and correction of existing articles. Staff are ready and anxious to move forward. John Baden has already selected more than 500 images from the Historical Society’s collections to be embedded in existing articles. We also anticipate adding moving images and sound from the Society’s collection.

The on-line edition continues to be a “hit.” Statistics for the period November 2012 to April 2013 show 538,695 visits; 3,200,104 page requests; and 6,347,657 “hits.” This traffic to the site was global and from a wide variety of domains. The Encyclopedia project was also highlighted in the May 2013 issue of the Public Historian in an article, “The Past as Prologue: Public Authority and the Encyclopedia of Cleveland History,” by John Grabowski.
News and Events from the Dittrick Medical History Center

by James M. Edmonson, Chief Curator

In September 2013 we opened an exhibition in the Castele Gallery entitled Nursing’s Echo: Reflections on Nursing’s Diversity in the Civil War. For this exhibition, we have relied upon the expertise of Elizabeth Topping, a Civil War re-enactor who has collected artifacts, memorabilia, ephemera and rare books relating to the topic. The script and layout have been developed by CWRU graduate student Sanford Clark, in collaboration with Ms. Topping and Dittrick staff. Important historic objects and ephemera has also been loaned Chris Foard, a collector of Civil War nursing material.

While nursing has long been included in the Dittrick collections, it has often been overshadowed by the medical profession’s story. Not any more. To mark the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, this exhibition will look at the impact of the war on the formation of professional identity. Nursing faced unprecedented demand from 1861 to 1865. The Civil War inflicted carnage and suffering on a scale never seen before in the United States. When the war opened nursing comprised a calling or a duty, not a profession in the modern sense. The war gave nursing a heritage, shaped by the conflict. The post Civil War narrative of nursing featured an educated, literate and socially advantaged cadre of women who inspired others to create a new professional identity for nursing. After the war, however, politics, memoir and memorialization relegated a large numbers of less articulate and less privileged nurses -- both women and men -- to obscurity. The purpose of this exhibition is to revive our appreciation of the rich diversity of the nursing experience in both North and South.

On a related front, the Dittrick recently became home to historical collections of the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at CWRU. The Alumni Affairs office of the school asked us to curate their collections, consisting of nursing uniforms (from caps to capes to shoes), badges, pins, and memorabilia, images of nurses who graduated from FPB, and much more. History graduate student Katie Shroeder worked very diligently putting the extensive nursing uniform collection into good order. We’re more than happy to care for this important historical material, which will be available for study, research and display (including at FPB). It also dovetails nicely with ongoing work on the World War I Lakeside Unit being done at the Dittrick. Archivist Jennifer Nieves, in collaboration with Dianne O’Malia, of the Stanley A. Ferguson Archives of University Hospitals of Cleveland, is developing a web-based history site to showcase the wartime experience of the Lakeside Unit in France. This group included a notable cohort of nurses, from Agatha Hodgins to Grace Allison, who became prominent figures in the Cleveland nursing profession. Their story will be told more fully later this year when the Lakeside Unit website goes public. It will feature hundreds of images documenting the wartime nursing experience, which should provide a fascinating glimpse at this under-appreciated aspect of Cleveland’s medical heritage.

This past summer we’ve been busy crafting a series of “permanent” exhibits with the help of CWRU and CIA students. By the fall we will complete several new displays in the 3rd floor hallway as well as a component of the main museum gallery devoted to the history of childbirth. In the hall visitors may see the exhibit “Dreaded Diphtheria: Deadly Childhood Scourge” curated by senior biology major Cicely Schonberg. Cicely presents technologies used before the advent of diphtheria serum therapies, chiefly tracheotomy and O’Dwyer’s intubation instruments. Period advertisements and a silent film era public health presentation on the disease showed parents how to recognize diphtheria symptoms and seek prompt treatment. Diphtheria syringes and serum from Cleveland’s immunization campaigns of the 1920 era round out the display. Cicely will next tackle smallpox and use this material to prepare a Senior Capstone research project. She will explore the history of the two diseases, the outbreaks that ravaged Cleveland, and the city’s immunization programs of the Progressive Era (1890s-1920s). Cicely’s project will culminate in a presentation at the Ohio Academy of Medical History next spring.

Other new exhibits in the hallway include “If you were sick in 1910,” curated with the help of history Ph.D. candidate Katherine Schaub. This features the emergence of the hospital as central to the medical experience, the rapid spread of technology in medicine, and the ascent of surgery, as well as myriad accommodations of daily routines to prevent spread of infection. Katherine will subsequently help build displays on syphilis and lithotripsy.

In the main gallery, guest curator Brandy Schillace, Ph.D. and CIA biomedical art student Emily Hromi have crafted “Re-conceiving Birth,” which comprises phase one of our refurbishment of the main gallery to showcase the history of childbirth. This component presents midwifery and obstetrics with a focus on the period c.1700-1820.
“Turning Points in History” was the theme of History Day 2013, which took place at Case Western Reserve University and the Western Reserve Historical Society on Saturday, March 23. Some 400 area intermediate and senior high students participated in the local District 3 contest.

Several District 3 winners eventually went on to impressive showings at National History Day in College Park, Maryland. John Vodrey of Shaker Heights High School headed the list by taking first place in the Senior Individual Web Site category. District 3 dominated the national web site categories, as Dhweeja Dasarthy of Birchwood School placed second in Junior Individual Web Site, and Marcia Brown and Abby White of Shaker Heights took third in Senior Group Web Site.

History Day began as a local contest on the campus of Case Western Reserve University in 1974. Created by the late Dr. David Van Tassel of the CWRU Department of History, it quickly expanded into a statewide and then a national competition.

“Since 1980, National History Day has allowed students from ... across the country to develop their writing, research, and critical thinking skills,” said Gainor Davis, president and CEO of the Western Reserve Historical Society. “The competitive process also allows them to gain confidence in their presentation skills and to be rewarded and recognized for their perspectives and abilities in relation to history.”

CWRU has maintained its historical connection to National History Day, not only by co-hosting the local district contest but also by awarding a full four-year scholarship to an outstanding entry at the national contest. Many judges for the district contest are graduate students in the History Department.

“Rights and Responsibilities” will be the theme for History Day 2014, which will take place at CWRU and the Western Reserve Historical Society on Saturday, March 15. Anyone interested in judging for papers, web sites, performances, documentaries, or exhibits should contact the Ohio District 3 coordinator, John Vacha by email at jvacha@wrhs.org.
History Associates’ Thirteenth Year …

The History Associates started 2013 with a dinner and lecture at the Skating Club; and were fortunate to have one of its own members, Dr. Virginia Dawson, speak to a large and interested audience on the “Puritan Ethic in Cleveland’s Gilded Age: Lessons from the Mather Family Letters.” In early May, the Annual History Associates Fellowships Graduate Student Presentations were given, and featured cutting edge research by Sanford Clark, Emily Hess, and Jesse Tarbert. This interesting and informative program is always eagerly awaited.

History Associates also offers other special member events throughout the year. In November 2012, graduate student Elise Hagesfeld gave an insightful paper on “Ending the Orphanage” that was followed by a lively question-and-answer period.

The sixth annual Ubbelohde Lecture, an endowed series sponsored by the History Associates, in memory of Dr. Carl Ubbelohde, a much-admired professor and former chair of the CWRU History Department, was given on Monday, November 4, 2013. The presenter was Janice Radway, a professor at Northwestern University, and author of Reading the Romance, and co-editor of A History of the Book in America. Dr. Radway’s presentation was entitled “Girls, Zines, and Divergent Networks of Dissent: Some Thoughts on Subjectivity and Social Movement in the 1990s.”

The History Associates also encourage you, if you have not already done so, to renew your membership for the 2013–2014 academic year. You don’t want to miss details about any of our upcoming programs. Also remember that funds raised by the History Associates have supported grants to graduate students for doctoral dissertation research and prizes for outstanding work by undergraduates. For more information about membership, please contact the Dean’s office in the College of Arts and Sciences at 216.368.0097.
“I would like to thank the History Associates for my $1,000 Fellowship to explore the founding of the Exploratorium through the Bancroft Archives in Berkeley, California. It was a very successful trip.”

“Doctors Cohen and Levin are already using my acquisition of this material as a teaching moment, improving my research and writing skills as they focus my work with this collection of primary sources.”

— Sanford Clark

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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