

# History Notes

## 2009-2010

Editors: John Grabowski, Stephanie Liscio, and Michael Metsner

### News from Jonathan Sadowsky, Department Chair

The 2008-2009 academic year was a good one for the History Department, which continues to grow stronger. We conducted two successful faculty searches. One was for a historian of Latino history in the United States. We hired John Flores, who received his degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and whose research focuses on Mexican-American immigrants in Chicago. The other search was for a historian of Modern China; the successful candidate was Jia-Chen (“Wendy”) Fu, a Yale Ph.D. whose research is about the history of nutritional science and the body in twentieth-century China. Professor Fu will be joining us in Fall 2010, as she is taking a post-doctoral fellowship at Berkeley this year. We also were the departmental home for the first holder of a new college post-doctoral fellowship in African-American Studies, Laila Haidarali. Professor Haidarali is a specialist in African-American women’s history, and has now taken a position in the History Department at the University of Essex, U.K.. The African-American Studies post-doctoral fellow for this year, Robert Chase, is also in the History Department, and he specializes in the history of prisons in Texas. In Fall 2008, renowned historian Robin Kelley also gave the first annual Carl Ubbelohde lecture, inaugurating the endowed series named for our former colleague. And Professor Marixa Lasso was promoted to Associate Professor, with tenure.



### History Department Welcomes Two New Faculty Members

The Department of History successfully completed two new faculty searches in the Spring of 2009 and welcomes Professors John Flores and Jia-Chen (Wendy) Fu to Case Western Reserve University. John Flores, the Climo Junior Professor for the College of Arts and Sciences, comes to Case from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he was part of the History of Work, Race, and Gender in the Urban World concentration under Dr. Leon Fink.

Jia-Chen Fu comes to Case from Yale University where she worked with Dr. Jonathan Spence on her dissertation, “Society’s Laboratories: Biomedical Nutrition and the Modern Chinese Body, 1910-1950.” It examines the “emergence of the modern medical field of nutritional science through the various research endeavors of Chinese and Western



John Flores

medical researchers and clinicians.” Fu will begin her appointment at Case during the Fall of 2010.

### Remembering Judi Northwood

By Jonathan Sadowsky

The Department suffered a tragedy this year, in the untimely passing of Judi Northwood, an exceptionally gifted graduate student. Judi was a historian of medicine, who was embarking on an ambitious genealogy of the psychiatric concept of personality disorder, proposing special attention to its role in the formation of race.

Every faculty member who taught her, every graduate student whom she studied with, and every undergraduate whom she taught, benefited from Judi’s sharp intellect, devotion to accuracy, creative interpretation, industriousness, and not least from her vitality and compassion. She excelled in everything she did: writing critical reviews, formulating research projects, and teaching.

Judi was drawn to complexity and ambiguity. Her readings of other historians’ worked never lapsed either into overly lavish praise or indiscriminate trashing. She recognized that one could learn from some of the least impressive contributions of our peers, and that even the most impressive could have very deep flaws. This was not only a sign of an intellectual appreciation for nuance, but showed the maturity that made her own research promising.

But despite our loss, we are all richer for her continuing influence and example. She loved learning in the most ardent way. Remembering her is at the same time an opportunity to remember our own commitments.

## Several Historians Visit Campus in Fall of 2009



Professor Michael Grossberg

Several historians visited Case Western Reserve University during the fall of 2009 to share their scholarship with faculty and students.

Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz gave the 2009 Anton and Rose Zverina Medical History Lecture on September 17. Her talk was entitled, "How Contraceptives Became Illegal: The Origins of the Comstock Law." Dr. Horowitz

is the Sydenham Clark Parsons Professor of History at Smith College.

On September 30 Michael Grossberg gave the 2009 Ubbelohde Lecture on "The Politics of Marriage: Same-Sex Unions and the Dilemmas of American Legalism," sponsored by the Department of History and History Associates. The focus of Dr. Grossberg's research is the relationship between law and social change, including the intersection of law and the family.

Dr. Grossberg, who served as a chair of the History Department, is the Sally M. Reahard Professor of History and a Professor of Law at Indiana University, where he is also the director of the Indiana University Political and Civic Engagement Program. Dr. Grossberg wrote numerous books and articles on American legal and social history, including the Littleton-Griswold Prize winning book, *Governing the Hearth, Law and the Family in Nineteenth-Century America*.

Marcy Norton visited campus on November 2 to present, "Tobacco and Chocolate: The Columbian Exchange Revisited," which traced the ways that these goods changed and were changed by Europe. Dr. Norton is associate professor of history at George Washington University and is currently working on a project that examines the history of human and animal relationships in the early modern world.

## The Department of History Welcomes Robert Chase as new Postdoctoral Fellow in African American Studies

Robert Chase, the new Postdoctoral Fellow in African American Studies, comes to Case Western Reserve University completing a postdoctoral fellowship at Southern Methodist University's Clements Center for the study of Southwestern America. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park, where he earned the Ann G. Wylie dissertation award.

Dr. Chase is co-editing an anthology of essays with the Clements Center tentatively titled "The Enclosed Frontier of the American Prison: Immigration Detention, Prisons, and Prisoners in the Borderlands and US Southwest." He is also writing a chapter for the edited volume, *Life and Labor in the New New South: Essays in Southern Labor History since 1950* from the University of Florida Press, 2010. In that article, Dr. Chase explores historical patterns of southern prison labor and how an emerging prisoners' rights movement used the imagery of slavery and plantation labor in their protest campaign as part of their effort to generate public sympathy for prison reform. He has also been invited to be part of the plenary panel "Forced Labor in the South After Slavery: The Long Duree" for the "After Slavery Race, Labor, and Emancipation" Charleston conference in March 2010. Dr. Chase is delighted and thankful to be at Case Western Reserve University and to have the chance to work alongside so many esteemed scholars and historians.



## Case Hosts Urban History Symposium

Last November the Department of History hosted a symposium, *Rethinking Urban History: Technology, Environments and Politics* in honor of the fiftieth anniversary of the Society for the History of Technology at Case Western Reserve. The keynote address, "The City's End: Two Centuries of Fantasies, Fears and Premonitions of New York's Destruction," was given by Max Page, Associate Professor of Architecture and History at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

The symposium, held at the CWRU Alumni House, drew scholars from across the country as well as Case faculty and students.

## Faculty News.....

**Molly Berger** presented "'A City Within a City': Urban Hotels Recreate the American City," at the Department of History's urban history symposium in November 2008. She is a co-author of *Vanderbilt Mansion, A Gilded-Age Country Place*, published by the National Park Service in 2008. The book is a historic resource study of the Vanderbilt Mansion in Hyde Park, N.Y. She contributed the historiographical essay and the section on the estate's transportation, power, and mechanical systems. In addition, she won a second NSF grant to develop education programs for science and mathematics teachers.

**Dan Cohen** has a long article on the transformation of nineteenth-century American women's authorship forthcoming in the spring 2010 issue of *Journal of the Early Republic*.

**John Grabowski** has been named to a statewide panel of historians who will establish a framework for the celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War in Ohio. The panel will begin a series of meetings in the fall of 2009.

Dr. Grabowski also continues to work on projects with Bilkent University in Ankara, Turkey. During the past year he completed work on a video biography of the University's founder, Professor İhsan Doğanramazanoğlu and continued work on a video institutional history as well as on a monograph which places the history of Bilkent in the broader context of the development of higher education in Turkey. Bilkent and CWRU have also formalized an exchange agreement for faculty and students (see <http://www.case.edu/artsci/bilkent/> for details of the exchange).

During the summer of 2009 Dr. Grabowski served as the director of an NEH Landmarks workshop on immigration and migration which was hosted by the Western Reserve Historical Society. The workshop brought 42 two-year college faculty from around the nation to Cleveland to examine issues relating to the intersection of landscape, memory, and the migration experience.

**David Hammack** published *Globalization, Philanthropy, and Civil Society: Projecting Institutional Logics Abroad*, edited with an introduction by David C. Hammack and Steven Heydemann through Indiana University Press. He also edited, with Helmut Anheier, *American Foundations: Studies on Roles and Contributions*, forthcoming in 2010 from The Brookings Institution Press.

Dr. Hammack is organizing a national conference on "Foundations in America's Regions," to be held at the Rockefeller Archive Center in Pocantico Hills, New York, Oct. 18-20.

**Dr. Marixa Lasso** was promoted to Associate Professor. She spent the past six months doing research in Panama for her new project on Colon City. She presented her initial findings at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in Rio de Janeiro, at the International Conference of Caribbean Studies in Cartagena, and at the University of Panama. She also accepted an invitation by the Spanish Cooperation Agency to give a talk in a workshop on Afro-Latinamerican memory and nation building aimed at black community organizers from Colombia, Ecuador, and Panama.

Professor Lasso is also having a busy year with the bicentennial celebrations of Spanish American Independence. She was one of a handful of international scholars officially invited by the Colombian Government to commemorate its two hundredth anniversary. She was also invited to an international conference on the Bicentennial of the Spanish American Wars of Independence in Quito, Ecuador. And she has already accepted invitations to give talks at other bicentennial conferences: one organized by the École des hautes études en Sciences sociales in Paris and the other by the National University of Colombia at Medellín.

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

**Kenneth F. Ledford** In the past year, Ken Ledford presented two papers, "Judging Judges in the Third Reich," presented as part of Fifth Miller Symposium, "Law and the Nazi Germany," at the Center for Holocaust Studies, University of Vermont, April 19, 2009, and "*Durch Urteil und Recht*": Neo-Absolutism and Judicial Independence in the Prussian *Vormärz*," on the panel titled "Revisiting the *Vormärz*: Public Sphere, Private Life, and Political Contestation," at the Annual Meeting of the German Studies Association, Washington, October 8-11, 2009. He published book reviews in *German History*, *German Studies Review*, and on H-German. At the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association in January 2009, he was elected to a second five-year term as Editor of *Central European History* by the membership of the Conference Group for Central European History, and in May, he was elected president of the campus chapter of Phi Beta Kappa for a three-year term, succeeding Ted Steinberg. He served on the Program Committee for the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Legal History in Dallas in November 2009, and continues to serve on the Board of Editors of the *Law and History Review*. He continues to be very active in Department, College, and University service, serving as Faculty Senator and on a number of administrative search committees and a Strategic Review Committee for the University Library. He still works steadily on his book project, *Prussian Judges and the Rule of Law in Germany, 1848-1914*.

A book by **Alan Rocke**, entitled *Image and Reality: Kekule, Kopp, and the Scientific Imagination*, will be published in spring 2010 by the University of Chicago Press. He is currently Chair of the Section for History & Philosophy of Science of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Professor Rocke will be presenting invited talks at Johns Hopkins University on October 1, and at the University of Regensburg, Germany, on December 5. During the past year he presented papers at the American Chemical Society, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, and the 7 Pines II Workshop on History of Science in Stillwater, Minnesota.

**Renee Sentilles** submitted a book review essay, "New Girls for the New (Twentieth) Century," to the *Journal of Women's History*, forthcoming winter 2009. She co-wrote a book essay with Laura Ansley, a senior undergraduate, entitled "American Theater," for the collection *The Civil War*, edited by Zoe Trodd and Alex Kent Williamson for the American Life and Culture Series published by Bruccoli Clark Layman/Manly, forthcoming winter 2009.

Professor Sentilles spent the rest of her summer revising an article, "Girlish Masculinity: American Girls and Boyish Pursuits" (pending) for *Gender and History*.

**Gillian Weiss** During the academic year 2008-2009 Gillian Weiss gave talks on corsairs, captives, ceremonials and colonization at Yale, Northern Illinois University, the Newberry Library and Case. She presented new research at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference annual meeting in Geneva. Most exciting, she had her book manuscript, *Back from Barbary: Mediterranean Slavery and the Rise of France*, accepted for publication by Stanford University Press and bought a house walking distance from campus.

## Staff News.....

**Marissa Ross** started the Community and Social Development Masters program at MSASS.

For information about History Department events, please contact **Kalli Vimr** at [kallisto.vimr@case.edu](mailto:kallisto.vimr@case.edu).

# Alumni News.....

**Jesse Ballenger**, assistant professor in the Science and Technology Studies Program at Penn State and the author of a monograph from Johns Hopkins, has a new edited volume out: *Treating Dementia: Do We Have a Pill for It?* from Johns Hopkins University Press.

**Adrienne Lash Jones**, currently on the board of Fisk University and the Cleveland Museum of Art, began her career by seeking out the nurturing environment and high academic standards she knew she could find at a historically black college. Fisk won her over. She moved to Nashville and chose to major in business administration.

"My family had a history of operating small businesses. I thought it would be a challenge to involve myself in an area of study that was a male-dominated field—and to succeed." As a Fisk student, she enjoyed events and programs held at the International Student Center, which brought in many notable speakers of the day. She also joined Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She graduated with honors in 1956.

When she decided to pursue graduate studies, Dr. Lash Jones enrolled in the Weatherhead School of Management at Case Western Reserve University. She later changed her academic focus to American studies and enrolled the university's School of Graduate Studies. Dr. Lash Jones experienced a similar nurturing and academically inspiring environment as she had years earlier at Fisk, though she recalls with dismay the university's decision to discontinue the program because of declining enrollment. She designed her own course of study, which included taking classes at nearby Cleveland State University.

She completed her doctorate 1983. Her dissertation, *Jane Edna Hunter: A Case Study of Black Leadership, 1915-1950*, was published in 1983, and again in 1990 as part of a 16-volume series, *Black Women in United States History Volume 12* (Carlson Publishing, Inc., 1990).

Dr. Lash Jones spent her career at Oberlin College, retiring as emerita associate professor of African American studies. She remains busy as a community activist, involving herself in issues and projects she values. She is married to L. Morris Jones, M.D., and has three sons.

She has served on the board of the Cleveland Foundation, Karamu House, the Federation for Community Planning, Women's Community Foundation, and the executive board of world YWCA. She also was national vice president of YWCA National Board. Past professional affiliations have included the Black Women's Historians, Organization of American Historians, American Studies Association, and the National Association for the Study of African American Life and History.

**Dan Kerr** published "Countering Corporate Narratives from the Streets: The Cleveland Homeless Oral History Project," in *Oral History and Public Memories*, eds. Paula Hamilton and Linda Shopes from Temple University Press.

**Jason Krupar** is currently an Associate Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati OMI College of Applied Science. He will likely be joining the UC McMicken College of Arts & Sciences Department of History this coming summer when the OMI College of Applied Science merges with the College of Engineering.

Dr. Krupar's research on the federal historical preservation policies within the nation's nuclear weapons complex recently appeared in the Winter 2007 issue of *The Public Historian*. He co-authored a book chapter in *Nuclear Legacies: Communication, Controversy, and the U.S. Nuclear Weapons Complex* that examined several case studies of grass-roots attempts to preserve the memory of the nation's nuclear arsenal. This book received the 2008 Christine L. Oravac Book Award sponsored by the Environmental Communication Division of the National Communication Association. He also wrote an essay in an anthology, *The Atomic Bomb and American Society: New Perspectives*, published by University of Tennessee Press in Spring 2009. *Continued...Page 7*

# Graduate Student News.....

**Ryan Chamberlain** is a first year Ph.D. student and is currently looking into research topics involving story papers/ and or sensational literature. He recently gave a lecture at the Clinton County Historical Center in Wilmington, Ohio entitled "Dueling and American Journalism."

**Lynne Graziano** presented a paper, "Direct-To-Consumer Advertising: A Dangerous Game of Pitching Products to Parents," at The Southern Association for the History of Medicine and Science annual conference, March 6, 2009, in Birmingham, Alabama and at The Ohio Academy of Medical History annual meeting, May, 2009, in Columbus, Ohio, where her talk focused more on the FDA.

**Elise Hagesfeld** completed her comprehensive exams in April 2009, and is now working on her dissertation, focusing on the shift in institutional child welfare from orphanages to residential treatment facilities in the post-war period. She is the recipient of a History Associates Fellowship, which will enable her to conduct archival research this winter.

Elise is excited to have been a part of two book projects with David Hammack, *Globalization, Philanthropy, and Civil Society: Projecting Institutional Logics Abroad*, published by the Indiana University Press in July, and the forthcoming *American Foundations: Roles and Contributions*, due out this fall from the Brookings Institute Press. She is also serving as the project manager for a related volume about the roles of regional foundations in the United States, and is looking forward to assisting with an author's conference in October

Elise has received a fellowship to attend the ARNOVA (Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action) conference in November, where she will be presenting her dissertation research to the AIM Alliance Nonprofit Data Conference, a group interested in promoting discussion of nonprofit research data and research methodologies. Elise is enjoying her work as a teaching assistant for HSTY 112: Introduction to American History, and also for MAND 401: Introduction to the Nonprofit Sector, a graduate course that is part of the Mandel Center for Nonprofit Organizations.

**Emily Hess** is beginning her third year in the Ph.D. program. Currently, she is preparing to take comprehensive exams. Last year, she taught at Ashland University as a visiting instructor of history and was nominated for Outstanding Female Faculty Member of the Year. This September, she was a guest lecturer at the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio, for the Ohio Historical Society's Ticket to History series. On a more personal note, she is looking forward to running her first marathon in October!

**Jim Johnson** presented a paper titled "Frank Malina and the Birth of Internationalism in Astronautics" at the annual SHOT (Society for the History of Technology) meeting in Pittsburgh in October. He's also in the midst of studying for comprehensive exams.

**Stephanie Liscio** was recently interviewed by WKSU 89.7 FM on the topic of Negro League baseball in Cleveland and the integration of the Indians. She also presented a paper entitled, "New Season, New Team: The Revolving Door of Negro League Teams in Cleveland, 1922-1940" at the NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture's annual conference in Tucson, Arizona last March. In July Stephanie assisted Dr. Leslie Heaphy of Kent State University with a Negro League baseball and American history workshop for educators held at the Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh. Stephanie also traveled throughout China with a group from MSASS last May.

**Paul Lubienecki** recently gave a lecture entitled "John Timon-Buffalo's First Bishop: His Contributions to Western New York & American Catholicism" at Christ the King Seminary Dining Hall in East Aurora, New York. This paper was a result of Paul's work in History 479 with Dan Cohen.

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## Alumni News...Cont'd.....

**Qiusha Ma**, Associate Professor of East Asian Studies at Oberlin College, is currently in Beijing, China, studying China's Nongovernment Organizations.

**Stuart Mendel**, Assistant Dean for Administration - Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, at Cleveland State University, had an article accepted for publication: "Are Private Government, the Nonprofit Sector and Civil Society the Same Thing?" in the *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*. Recently, he was named special assistant to Cleveland State's new president, Ronald M. Berkman.

**Susan Murnane** spent much of the current academic year in University Circle working at the Western Reserve Historical Society on a contracted history of the Cleveland Bankruptcy Court.

**Clifford Tobias** retired on August 31, 2009, after almost 32 years as a Historian at the National Park Service's Regional Office in Philadelphia and its evolving entities. He was involved in many aspects of History/Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Management. For many years Tobias specialized in "compliance," the agency's conformance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. Throughout his career Tobias prepared and processed nominations to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and Determinations of Eligibility for the NRHP. He prepared the National Historic Landmark nomination of USCGC Taney, the last surviving warship which fought at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, serving 50 distinguished years, and presented her NHL plaque in Baltimore on Pearl Harbor Day, 1988. In recent years Tobias was Project Manager for several major History research projects including the Administrative Histories of Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (PA), George Washington Birthplace National Monument (VA), and New River Gorge National River (WVA), plus the Hopewell Furnace Historic Resource Study, and Historic Context Study of Waterfowl Hunting Camps, Assateague Island National Seashore (MD & VA).

**Sylvia Washington** contributed extended discussions of environmental racism to the 2008 WVIZ production, THE RETURN OF THE CUYAHOGA, which also featured John Grabowski.

**Regennia Williams**, Associate Professor of History at Cleveland State University, will be a Fulbright Fellow in Spring, 2010, at Obafemi Awolowo University in Ile-Ife, Nigeria. Her research project "deals with the social history of women in Nigeria's Christian, Yoruba, and Muslim communities."

## Graduate Student News...Cont'd.....

**Elizabeth Salem** is beginning her fifth year in the Ph.D. program, and is continuing to study for her comprehensive exams. She most recently completed editorial work on *The War Came to Me: A Story of Endurance and Survival* (forthcoming, 2009), written by Holocaust survivor Eva G. Weissman and Beth's undergraduate advisor from Notre Dame College, Gregory Moore. Beth was also awarded a full scholarship from the Civil War Preservation Trust, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of battlefield lands, to attend their annual conference, held in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in early June. She, husband Richard, and their two-year-old daughter Clare recently welcomed a new addition to the family with the birth of Richard Thomas on August 3, 2009.

**Benjamin Sperry** is a visiting professor at Delta State University for the academic year. He is teaching modern U.S. history, and this spring will teach the university's first-ever course on civil rights history, which Benjamin is very excited about as it is his area of interest. He is also doing research in the Walter Sillers papers; Sillers was Speaker of the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1944-1966 and was thus a major (if under-recognized) force in state politics during a crucial period as the state struggled with the race question. Benjamin defends his dissertation in November.

**Jon Wlasiuk** has concluded his dissertation manuscript, "Nature: Standard Oil and the Urban Ecology of the Kerosene Age, 1863-1900", and will defend his work early in 2010. Jon will teach Technology in America in the Spring of 2010.

# History Student Awards...



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

## Graduate Student Prizes and Awards for 2009

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

Norman Rose and Judi Northwood

**History Associates Fellowship** recipients:

Lyz Bly, Elise Hagesfeld, and Norman Rose

**The Jane and Cecile Lyman History Prize** for the best Ph.D. dissertation defended during the previous year:

Catherine Borchert – “Excscinded: The Old School-New School Schism of 1837 and the Presbytery of Cleveland”

**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:

Aaron Alcorn, George Mason University – “Modeling Behavior: Boys, Engineers, and the Model Airplane in American Culture”

## Undergraduate Student Prizes and Awards for 2009

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

Jeannette DeGuire and Christopher Denzel

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

Sarah Byrd and Mirela Turc

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

Mieon Han and Katie Schaub

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

Laura Ansley, Amy Brown, and Wei Wu

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

Katie Callahan and Jim Meehan

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

Ashley Solomon



*The Western Reserve Historical Society Library*



# News and Events from the Dittrick Medical History Center

by James M. Edmonson, Chief Curator

## Re-opening of Skuy Collection gallery

We hosted the grand re-opening on September 17<sup>th</sup> of the Percy Skuy Collection, in its own dedicated gallery space. It has been a long time in the making, but came together in a last burst of creative energy by the Dittrick team and our guest curator Jimmy Meyer. More on this process below. The Skuy Collection is now presented in a new specially themed exhibition entitled “Virtue, Vice, and Contraband : a History of Contraception in America.” To mark the re-opening scheduled as a speaker Helen Lefkowitz Horowitz, Ph.D., the Sydenham Clark Parsons Professor of History at Smith College, and a distinguished scholar of 19<sup>th</sup> century sexual discourse.

## 2009 Zverina Lecture by Helen Horowitz

Our choice of Professor Horowitz for the 2009 Zverina Lecture to mark the re-opening of the Skuy Collection stems from the influence that her scholarship has had upon our understanding of the history of contraception, and knowledge about reproduction more generally, in the nineteenth century. Her talk, “*How Contraceptives Became Illegal: The Origins of the Comstock Law,*” will focus upon the pivotal event in criminalizing knowledge and practices in this sphere: the Comstock Act of 1873. The Comstock Act not only criminalized contraception; it also colored our perception of Victorian America. Howowitz’s inquiry into the era before Comstock, as captured in *Rereading Sex*, revealed a surprisingly lively, if at times contentious, discussion of sexuality, reproduction, and contraception between 1830 and 1873. That discourse was muted and driven underground, much as the trade in contraceptives entered a black market era. Her lecture explored how this came to pass and what it meant for Americans in the late nineteenth century and beyond.

## The Skuy Collection gallery: “Virtue, Vice, and Contraband : the History of Contraception in America.”

We chose to reinterpret the Skuy Collection in a completely new manner, situating it within its social and cultural context. The exhibition, as now configured, comprises five main sections:

- 1) Secrets revealed ! : Vernacular and folk understanding of sex, reproduction, and contraception; the “Population question;” and new knowledge about birth control in America, 1800-1873.
- 2) The Comstock era: suppressing vice makes contraception illegal, 1873-1915
- 3) The Sanger era: the Birth Control movement in America; medicalizing contraception; and the growing diversity of contraceptives, 1915-1950.
- 4) Revolutionary change: the Pill, IUDs, and other new methods, 1950 to the present.
- 5) Afterward: Birth control today and tomorrow: choices, emerging technologies, and issues of access.

In the course of crafting this exhibition on contraception, we made many discoveries in our collections, acquired new artifacts and pamphlets, and made connections with the community of scholars working on this subject area. It has been a very enriching experience, and our work will continue long beyond the re-opening of the new gallery for the Skuy Collection. At the very outset, four years ago, we convened a panel of expert consultants, and from that emerged our guest curator, Jimmy Wilkinson Meyer (College of Wooster). Jimmy did her dissertation at CWRU on the Cleveland Maternal Health Association, which appeared as *Any Friend of the Movement: Networking for Birth Control, 1920-1940* (2004). As guest curator, she helped work out the exhibit structure and content, and tracked down artifacts, images, and related literature. Jimmy visited archives and collections from Harvard and Smith College to the Smithsonian and Duke. She regularly scoured eBay in search of ephemeral and esoteric items -- who knew that 21<sup>st</sup> century scholarship would also provide the welcome relief of retail therapy?!

## Dissection soars on charts

The Dittrick’s recent book project, *Dissection: Photographs of a Rite of Passage of American Medicine, 1880-1930* (Blast Books), has really taken off. Publicity began on April 24 with an online review by Barron Lerner in Slate.com, followed by a notice in the *New York Times Review of Books*, and then by a full review by Abigail Zuger (a CWRU SOM alum) in the *NYT* Tuesday Health edition. The *Cleveland Plain Dealer* gave the book an almost full page spread in their Metro section (April 27), with a very favorable and sympathetic piece by Brian Albrecht. Then we hit the airwaves, with Ira Flatow interviewing me on *Science Friday* on May 29, and then John Harley Warner was interviewed by Jacki Lyden on NPR’s *All Things Considered* on June 2. With all this exposure (and some luck) the book soared to #162 on Amazon.com in April. Links to stories and archived audio interviews may be found here: <http://www.case.edu/origins/news/edmonson.htm>

## Morley exhibit case renovation completed

Being part of the College of Arts and Sciences affords many benefits for the Dittrick, and we welcome the opportunity to be of help service in return. Helping to refurbish a display case featuring the life and scientific work of Edward Morley provided just such an opportunity last Spring. *Cont...page 10*

# The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History

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

During the past year (2008-2009) graduate students Jonathan Wlasiuk and Stephanie Liscio served as Besse Fellows/Associate Editors of the on-line edition (<http://ech.case.edu>) of *The Encyclopedia of Cleveland History/Dictionary of Cleveland Biography*. Michael Metsner joined the staff as a Besse Fellow/Associate Editor in July 2009 when Jon Wlasiuk completed his two-year assignment on the project.

The Associate Editors, working under the direction of editor John J. Grabowski, continued the process of updating and correcting articles as well as writing new entries. Each focused on subject areas in which they had strong interest and expertise. Jonathan Wlasiuk's work centered on topics relating to labor and environment. Stephanie Liscio updated the large number of sports-related entries and created a series of new entries which detailed every African-American team that played professional baseball in Cleveland during the era of sports segregation. Her work on this topic received extensive local publicity, including a radio interview on WKSU. Currently she is focusing on updating and expanding entries relating to neighborhoods and landmarks in northeastern Ohio. Michael Metsner will be updating and expanding the entries that relate to African-American history in the region during the coming academic year.

Per a new protocol, the on-line Encyclopedia is also available on the Digital Case site maintained by the university libraries. This site serves as an archive for the on-line version. At the beginning of each year Digital Case harvests the current content of the on-line edition and thereby preserves a record of any changes and modifications made during the previous year.

## News and Events from the Dittrick Medical History Center...cont...

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The project actually started some time ago, when we collaborated with Bill Fickinger (Physics emeritus) to re-install the interferometer model celebrating the famous aether drift experiment of Michelson and Morley in 1887. That now graces a ground floor foyer in the Physics Department home, the Rockefeller Building, and the site of the Michelson Morley experiment was designated as a historical site by the American Physical Society in 2005. Following that, Bill proposed refurbishing the Morley display case in the lobby of Schmitt Lecture Hall in the Chemistry Department. Bill brought Alan Rocke on board as a collaborator to rewrite the label copy, and Laura Travis provided graphics, design, and installation. The resulting exhibition in the case is a welcome renovation of a previously shop-worn display of recent years. When you are on campus, seek out the display, just behind the Hvorka Atrium (accessible off Adelber Road) connecting DeGrace Hall, the Clapp Building, the Millis Science Center, and the Schmitt Lecture Hall

## Handerson Lecture on safe sex in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

The Handerson Lecture in 2010 (March/April date yet to be determined) will feature Natasha McEnroe, Grant Museum, University College London. Her talk, entitled "‘In armour complete’: practising safe sex in 18<sup>th</sup>-century London," takes an intimate look at the very private lives of some of 18<sup>th</sup>-century London's leading literary and society figures. The basis for this work comes from Mrs. McEnroe's time as past Curator of Dr. Johnson's House, of Boswell and dictionary fame, and co-editor of *The Tyranny of Treatment: Samuel Johnson, His Friends and Georgian Medicine* (2003). Keep tuned to the Dittrick website for details.



History Associate members enjoy the reception at the Grossberg lecture



Grad students attend a roundtable discussion

## History Day 2009

by John Vacha, District 3 Coordinator

Dr. David Van Tassel of the Department of History began History Day as a local contest in 1974, and within a few years the idea had spread to the state and then the national levels. The local district contest, where it all began, now includes schools in Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, and Summit counties.

This past year (2009), nearly 400 senior high and intermediate school students brought their entries on “The Individual in History” to the Case Western Reserve University campus last March for History Day 2009.

Their work took the forms of papers, web sites, performances, documentaries, and exhibits. Sears, Nord, and Kent Hale Smith Hall, Ford and Strosacker Auditoriums, and the Thwing Ballroom were the sites for the competition. Awards for the top entries in each category were presented in Amasa Stone Chapel.

Winners from District 3 then went to Ohio History Day in Columbus, where twenty-three local entries out of a total of thirty-two statewide qualified for the national competition in College Park, Maryland.

At National History Day in June, two students from Shaker Heights High School were awarded third-place bronze medals for their web site on “Simon Wiesenthal: One Man’s Search for Justice.” Students from Shaker also finished sixth in senior individual exhibits, eight in senior papers, ninth in senior group exhibits, and eleventh in senior group documentaries. Another Shaker Heights student was awarded a \$20,000 scholarship to the University of Minnesota.

Since National History Day originated at Case Western Reserve University, this university awards a four-year, full-tuition scholarship to CWRU at the national level. This year’s winner is from Washington state.

Members from CWRU’s history department who helped to judge the District 3 contest included Professors John Grabowski and Elizabeth Todd and graduate students Richard Cartabuke, Lynne Graziano, Paul Lubienecki, Beth Salem, and Ben Sperry. Dave Carrino from biology and Norma Hanson from Kelvin Smith Library also joined the board of judges along with History Associates members Virginia Dawson, Roger Ingraham, Ben Stefanski, and David Shriver.

According to coordinator John Vacha, District 3 History Day 2010 will take place on campus March 13, 2010. “Innovation in History” is the theme, and judging invitations will go out in January. “Judging for History Day can be an invigorating experience as well as an opportunity to see the work of tomorrow’s historians,” said Vacha.

## News from History Associates of CWRU

by Virginia Dawson, President

History Associates is off to a great start this year. In September former chair of the History Department, Michael Grossberg, presented the second annual Carl Ubbelohde Lecture on “The Politics of Marriage: Same-Sex Unions and the Dilemmas of American Legalism.” Prior to the lecture, History Associates hosted a reception for members and their guests where they had the chance to meet or renew acquaintance with our distinguished speaker. The lecture, open to the public, filled the Moot Court Room at the CWRU Law School to capacity.

Our next meeting will feature a presentation by Dr. Alan Rocke, “The Eureka Moment: Evidence for Unconscious Cognition from the History of Science,” November 18 at 4:00 p.m. in Clark 206 (Baker-Nord Center, 11130 Bellflower Road. Dr. Rocke is a widely published historian of chemistry and the science of Germany and France in the nineteenth century. This lecture is drawn from his forthcoming book, [\*Image and Reality: Kekule, Kopp, and the Scientific Imagination\*](#).

We hope, if you have not done so already, that you will join History Associates for the 2009-2010 academic year. As in past years, we have used funds raised by History Associates to award grants to several promising graduate students for research on their Ph.D. dissertations. We also contributed to the year’s History Department prizes for outstanding work by undergraduates. Please send your membership contribution in the enclosed envelope. For more information, contact the Dean’s office in the College of Arts and Sciences at 216.368.0097.

-----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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