Spring 2005

Time Lines Spring 2005

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As I write, we are enjoying a sunny, mild day in an especially frigid, snowy January. I am halfway through my first year as chair and relishing my new responsibilities. The news and articles that follow will give you a good idea why: This is a wonderful Department of History of which to be a part!

In the fall the department hosted two exciting events, one academic and one social. In early October Dr. Vincent Comerford of the National University of Ireland at Maynooth visited campus to meet with our majors and to give an evening lecture on the creation of Irish nationalism. Dr. Comerford chairs the Department of History at Maynooth, where we have begun a study abroad program that will include faculty exchange lectures each year. Later in the month, history alumni returned to campus for two days of social events and an excellent panel discussion of history careers.

We also welcomed Dr. Katherine Clark to the history faculty. Our students have benefited already from her undergraduate and graduate courses in medieval history and from her vibrant classroom presence. Soon, however, Dr. Clark will no longer be the newest member of the history faculty; we have hired a Russian History specialist, Dr. Meredith Roman, who will begin teaching in fall 2005.

The next few weeks will be filled with academic “highs” such as our annual Phi Alpha Theta initiation, Scholars Day, and the Spring Honors and Awards Ceremony. Perhaps most exciting, the Department will bring two distinguished scholars to campus for public lectures. On February 17, Dr. Nancy Hewitt, professor of history at Rutgers University and a graduate of Brockport, spoke on “From Seneca Falls to Suffrage,” and on April 7, Annette Gordon-Reed will present the annual Synnestvedt Memorial Lecture. Reed authored Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy and is writing a biography of Hemings.

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With over 400 history majors and a vibrant graduate program, we relish the present but recall fondly our past undergraduate and graduate history students. We would love to hear from you; please drop us a line by mailing the form on the back of this newsletter or by emailing Teri Rombaut, our secretary, or me (kkutolow@brockport.edu).

In Memory of Kevin Heckman
The whole department was greatly saddened to hear of the death of MA student Kevin Heckman in June 2004. Kevin enlivened our classes with his intelligence, dedication, wit and humor. We miss him greatly.
Letters From Iraq

From Donald Powell, Graduate Student, to the History Department

Donald Powell was deployed last October as a member of the 98th Division to support MNSTC-I (Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq) as an Operations Officer in the JOC (Joint Operations Center – J-3). The MNSTC-I mission is to organize, train and equip capable Iraqi forces in order to support the goal of a unified and stable Iraq.

October 24, 2004

Greetings from Baghdad - I flew in from Kuwait yesterday and then hopped on a C-130 to BIAP (Baghdad International Airport) arriving sometime in the afternoon. After a short drive (although dangerous - the convoy route to the green zone from the airport gets hit all the time) we arrived at the embassy within the green zone. I am currently living in tent city and awaiting more permanent facilities - they have four-person trailers but there is a waiting list to get into them.

November 8, 2004

I am now working the night shift as the Watch Officer in the J-3 Operations Center. The job keeps me reasonably busy and the time seems to be passing by quickly. I am hoping that in the next couple of weeks they will move me out of the tents and into one of the trailers and life in the tents is getting pretty old. Right now I am “hot-cotting” with a AF Major that works on the day shift and this is working out pretty well, at least I am getting some sleep.

Still receiving indirect fire from time to time but no one really gets excited about it and most of the rounds that land in the compound are duds (we suspect that the AIF [Anti-Iraqi Forces] is running out of the good rounds and are starting to use up the old stockpiles). We also hear sporadic SAF and louder explosions that sound like VBIEDS but I believe that is outside of the international zone. Things should heat here over the next couple of days with the operations going on in Falluja.

November 17, 2004

It’s really hard to say right now whether taking Falluja will have a lasting impact. The insurgency is turning to be more resilient than most people here expected, so the prevalent notion is that they will simply resurface somewhere else once this operation is over. That’s the bad news - the good news is that we have picked up seams in the AIF that may be exploited. Many of the AIF (non-hardliner) disagree with the hardline/jihadist tactics represented by Zarquawi’s group. Some of the non-hardliners are already looking ahead to a time when the Americans will leave and would like to get involved in the political future of Iraq.

On the tactical/operational level if this operation in Falluja is successful (I have no doubt that we can retake the city - the big question is whether the ISF [Iraqi Security Forces] can maintain order in the city, post conflict phase.) it may discourage some of the non-hardliners from continuing the fight. Once the hardliners become isolated it will be easier to find them and ultimately control/eliminate them. That’s the hope anyway. On the negative side, the AIF can either melt away into the population to fight another day or mix in with the civilian population to force the U.S. to inflict civilian casualties - this would have the effect of creating still more insurgents somewhere down the road.

As you can see this is a very complicated situation without any easy answers. In most of our successful post stability operations the country involved (Germany and Japan being the best examples) had a robust industrial base in which to transition from a wartime to a peacetime economy. Iraq does not have this going for it - the economy has been dependent on oil for so long that the people here have no idea how to establish a free-market economy. My instinct tells me that a free-market economy needs to be in place (or at least the conditions for a free-market economy) for democracy to succeed. In order to establish those conditions, there has to be security before investors will consider taking risk. Therein lies the problem - right now we cannot establish secure conditions for foreign investment, and the economy is not getting off the ground. How long will the American taxpayers continue to pay Iraqis to fill sandbags? (yes, I have seen the sandbag detail - Americans standing guard over Iraqis filling sandbags) This is not what a free-market economy should look like - it is simply buying some of the population off for the short term. If the Iraqi people see no real improvement in their lives, then why should they fight and die for such a nebulous concept as democracy? Suffice it to say, we still

Effects of a car bomb explosion near Powell’s base.
January 26, 2005

I really could not tell you much about how the war is going from the coalition perspective, however I do know quite a bit about the training of the Iraqi Security forces. For example – you might have read that the Senate confirmation panel asked Dr. Rice some pretty tough questions regarding the number of Iraqi Security Forces trained and equipped. Well not more than 24 hours later, I got a task to prepare a briefing slide that answers those very questions – it came from the White House to the SECDEF and then straight to MNSTC-I and me (the answers were part of a briefing that I prepare for the Secretary of Defense every week).

Life for me here in the IZ (International Zone – or otherwise known as the Green Zone), is a lot like the movie “Groundhog Day”. I wake up, shower and catch a bus that takes me to Phoenix Base, where I work the 9pm to 9am shift as the night watch officer. I spend the next 12 hours wickering the J-3 daily briefing slides, reviewing FRAGOs (Fragmentary Orders) from MNF-I and MNC-I (Multinational Force and Multinational Corps) for staffing and execution, monitoring both ground movement convoys and air (CH-47 - Chinooks) flights all over the Iraqi AOR (area of responsibility), monitoring SIGACTS, RFIs (Requests for Information) and any other emergencies or “helmet fires” that pop up. It keeps me busy most of the night – I have been doing this now for the last three months and am feeling very comfortable in my job. When the day is done – I usually walk back to my sandbagged trailer near the Embassy and watch a movie for about an hour and then go to bed (just to start the process all over again). In the almost four months that I have been in country I have not stepped outside the IZ. This does not really bother me though since I promised my family that I would not take any unnecessary risks over here. That does not mean that I am not in any danger – during Ramadan we were receiving practically my front door) and then also began to receive fire from the building across the river. I was sure glad to see those AH-64s going to work, not much could hope to survive those strafing runs. After about another 15 minutes of this “show” the firing stopped, but the helos continued to circle for quite a bit longer – needless to say it was not easy trying to get back to sleep after that.

February 2, 2005

A couple of days have passed since the elections and I thought that you might like to hear some stories that did not make the news.

I can’t speak for the rest of the coalition forces here in theater, but these elections have had a tremendous impact on our operations within MNSTC-I. I went from being busy for 12 hours straight, day in and day out, for the past three months to an almost complete standstill. The number of FRAGOs (Fragmentary Order – nothing happens over here without a FRAGO) that we process went from 20-30 a day down to a handful – a sure indication that the tempo of U.S. operations has slowed down somewhat (that said, I am sure that coalition forces are still putting pressure on the insurgency – it’s just that MNF-I and MNC-I do not have to produce FRAGOs for each MSC to conduct day to day operations). The next thing on MNC-I’s agenda is the RIP TOA (relief in place – transfer of authority) between II Corps and the XVIII Airborne Corps. This means that literally thousands of troops that have been here for a year or more will be rotating back to the States, while new units take their place. For the troopers in the 1st Cav Division (MND-B – stands for Multi-National Division – Baghdad) it means they will finally leave this place while soldiers from the 10th Mountain Division begin the process of assuming the security mission for the Baghdad AOR.

While this is important, what I really want to tell you about are all the new Iraqi units that have been sprouting...
up like mushrooms around the Baghdad area and the increase in recruiting numbers that we have seen in just the last couple of days. Units with such colorful names as the Muthanna Bde, the Defenders of Baghdad Brigade, the Al Amarah Battalion and the Defenders of Kadhimiya have all come on line within the last couple of weeks and are showing an aggregate strength in the thousands. Near as I can tell, these are units that have gotten their blessing to organize and equip from the Ministry of Defense and are for the most part former soldiers recruited from neighborhoods/districts in the Baghdad area. What they lack in equipment and formal training, they more than make up for with enthusiasm and a sense of (shall I say it?) national pride. All these units participated in election security (which by the way was solely an Iraqi affair – coalition forces were only standing nearby as a quick reaction force), demonstrating that the Iraqis are fully capable of raising and equipping their own units. In addition, we have also seen a spike in the number of Iraqis wishing to join the military – within the last 24 hours, we received a report that upwards of 3,000 men showed up at the gates at An Numannah Military Training Base, wishing to join the Iraqi Army. This was not a planned recruiting effort on behalf of MNSTC-I but rather a spontaneous demonstration of national pride and confidence in the new Iraqi Armed Forces. I do not think the symbolic value of Iraqi Armed Forces (there were numerous examples of Iraqi bravery on Sunday) demonstrating their ability to protect the polling sites was not lost on the populace or the insurgency (which seems to have lost some of the wind in their sails) – now it just remains to be seen whether the IAF can maintain this momentum over the coming months. I sincerely believe that as the Iraqi Armed Forces begin to build critical mass within some of these troubled areas (Mosul, Fallujah and Baghdad), we will also begin to see a reduction in the number of AWOLs and the soldiers will no longer feel compelled to wear ski masks to hide their identities.

February 13, 2005

Last few days have been kind of ho-hum around here. Most of the issues that we have been dealing with are what I would categorize as ankle biters (small problems that require attention but not the kind that you need to run around with your hair on fire). GEN Petraeus (the big boss) is in Paris right now, so the staff is kind of taking a strategic pause until we figure out what the next big move is. MNF-I (GEN Casey’s command – the really big guy) has already indicated where he would like to focus our efforts over the next few months. We are slowly transitioning from fighting the war all by ourselves, to bringing the Iraqis into the mix through a new program called MAT/BAT/SPATT. This new program takes the onus of training the Iraqi Armed Forces off the shoulders of MNSTC-I and puts it squarely on MNC-I (Corps). We will still be responsible for all the initial training of the Iraqi Armed Forces, but once they graduate from basic training they will be under the control of Corps major subordinate commands – the MAT/BAT/SPATTs (essentially advisory teams). The impact of this change is profound for our organization – once these units fall under Corps we will no longer be responsible for them. All these changes have left us wondering what MNSTC-I’s new mission will be.

I saw a very interesting email written by GEN Metz (III Corps Commander – outgoing) to GEN Casey. Using some interesting calculations, GEN Metz estimates that there are about 1,400 active (read – hardcore) insurgents in the Iraqi AOR. These hardcore insurgents can leverage larger numbers of less dedicated fighters for surge operations but usually with bad effects (meaning they either get killed in great numbers or do not come out at all – witness the elections). Therefore he believes that it is important for MNF-I/MNC-I to focus their operations on the head rather than the tail of the insurgency – this goes against the popular wisdom of fighting an insurgency, but then again no two insurgencies are exactly alike. What he said next is the really interesting piece – he states “we have worked the past twenty years in the Army not to fight the first battle of the last war. I am more fearful each day that history will show how we continued to fight the first battle of the last war, because we didn’t recognize how to fight the IO (Information Operations) war.” Basically what GEN Metz is saying is that a small but very determined group of insurgents are getting more bang for their buck, because they are effectively leveraging media sources to their benefit, while we are not. While we cannot always control what the media prints – the Army needs to do a better job getting out the “good stories” in this war. This point is made more interesting when contrasted to previous IO campaigns in our Nation’s history, i.e. the heavy handed tactics of George Creel and the Committee for Public Information and the more subtle leveraging media sources to their benefit, while we are not. While we cannot always control what the media prints – the Army needs to do a better job getting out the “good stories” in this war. This point is made more interesting when contrasted to previous IO campaigns in our Nation’s history, i.e. the heavy handed tactics of George Creel and the Committee for Public Information and the more subtle approach used by the Roosevelt Administration during WWII.

MAJ Donald C. Powell
MNSTC-I, J-3
Operations Watch Officer
Baghdad, Iraq
History Major Wins Brockport Idol

History major Stephen Deady beat out nine other contestants at the first Brockport Idol contest. The prize consisted of either a trip to next year’s American Idol audition or studio recording time. Stephen chose the recording time.

HISTORY FORUM NEWS

Welcome back everyone! History Forum had an exciting semester last year, and we’re looking forward to the events coming up! We hosted two successful movie nights, featuring Pirates of the Caribbean with Dr. Maepheron, and The Last Samurai with Dr. Killigrew. Forum students engaged Dr. Lloyd in a Trivial Pursuit match, ending the game in a tie. Next semester we’re planning another match with more professors and students. And although we moved our meeting place to the Union, our membership reached an all-time high!

This semester we have many events planned. Among them are two lectures, one featuring a Brockport graduate. We are also planning on attending the Organization of American Historians Conference, which is being held in San Francisco. Fundraising will be a big part in our plans this semester, but we focus more on the ‘fun’ aspect. It will be an exciting semester, and we hope to see you there!

Laura Butler
History Forum President

KATHERINE CLARK is new to the history department this year. Her teaching interests include the ancient world, medieval religion and spirituality, gender, and medieval culture. Her research thus far has focused on the intersections between medieval theology and gender history; her dissertation “Pious Widowhood in the Middle Ages” examined how medieval theologians adopted an idealized view of chastity for widowed women in order to both capitalize on the social and economic resources of widowed women for the benefit of Church institutions, and to use their example as a model of piety and celibacy for both women in particular and the Christian community in general.

Before coming to Brockport, Dr. Clark taught medieval and ancient history at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. She is currently working on revising her dissertation as a book, and on an article that discusses the role of widowed women as intermediaries and prophets in the developing theology of Purgatory in the thirteenth century. In coming semesters at Brockport, she plans to offer courses on Medieval Gender and Sexuality and the High Middle Ages (Spring 2005) and the Black Death (summer 2005).
FACULTY NEWS

JOHN DALY is currently writing a book about Reconstruction called *The Second Civil War: The Confederate Victory, 1865-1877*. He is also writing an article for *North and South* (the official journal of the Civil War Society) on Hollywood films and their depiction of the Civil War, especially post-WWII Westerns and their pro-Confederate assumptions. His recent article on proslavery writing will appear in Scribners’ new book *American History Through Literature, 1820-1870* (Janet Gabler-Hover, ed.). He once ate a 68 oz. blackened prime rib and enjoyed it. He also has a theory that all people he has met, have also met George McGovern.

TERRY GORE has had an article accepted for publication early next year. It will be in *Military History* magazine and deals with the Battle of Lake Piepus between the early Russians and the Teutonic Order.

JOHN KILLIGREW had an article published in the spring of 2004 (although it is cited as a 2003 edition): “The Reunification of China in AD 280: Jin’s Conquest of Eastern Wu,” in *Early Medieval China*, 9 (2003). This is his fourth article pertaining to ancient Chinese military history published in the last five years.

JOHN KUTOLOWSKI’S latest article, “Victorian Historians on Poland,” has been published in *The Polish Review*, Vol. XLIX (December 2004), 969-989.

KATHY KUTOLOWSKI is enjoying her new duties as chair of the department. She is pleasantly surprised by the number of students whom she sees and not quite as delighted at the number of meetings, reports, and administrative requests that fill each week’s time. Kutowolfski has just finished reviewing a wonderful new biography of Gouverneur Morris, a colorful early New York political leader and one of the forgotten “Founding Fathers”, for *New York History*.

BRUCE LESLIE continues to straddle the local and international. For the fourth year he was the keynote speaker for the Hartwell Society Induction – this year welcoming the Class of 1954 into the illustrious circle of those who graduated from Brockport 50 or more years ago. He and Prof. O’Brien continue building the Brockport College Archive as preparation for their history of the college since WWII, a project whose completion date is continually being revised. On the other hand, he and Prof. John Halsey of sociology and international education published an extended essay review of three books on British higher education and a recent Blair government “White Paper” on the subject. The books provide the historical context for the recent revolution in British higher education. In 1990, the UK had the least accessible higher education in the industrialized world. Then it plunged into mass higher education with a vengeance and little extra money. The result has been a comfortable world turned upside down and the Blair government’s proposed mid-course correction was an controversial as its role in Iraq. Prof. Leslie will return to Cambridge this spring to try to complete a book on the subject.

JENNY LLOYD will be serving as Interim Dean of Graduate Studies for the first six months of 2005. She has an article, “Women Preachers in the Bible Christian Connexion” forthcoming in the Winter 2004 *Albion*, and reviewed Rhonda Ann Semple’s book *Missionary Women* for the same journal. She gave a talk on “Women Preachers in Nineteenth-Century Britain” in the Sundays in SUNY series at the SUNY Student Resource Center in the Rochester Central Library.

MORAG MARTIN has had two articles accepted for publication, one in *Medical History Journal* and the other in the *Western Society for French History Journal*. She hopes to send out an article on the history of male hair loss for publication this winter. She will be on maternity leave in the spring 2005 and has received a Drescher Award Leave to finish revisions on her book for the fall. She will miss both the students and editing the newsletter while she is gone.

PAUL MOYER is currently working on the final chapter of his book manuscript *Wild Yankees: The Struggle for Independence along Pennsylvania’s Revolutionary Frontier, 1750-1820*. He plans on sending it out to presses after Christmas break. Besides his book manuscript, he is also working on an article with history undergraduate Tricia Peone on the role of animal familiars in witchcraft in England and New England. When not teaching or researching, he plays with his 3-year old daughter, Bridget, and his 7-month old son, Ethan, as well as works on the house his wife Christine and he bought in 2003.

ALISON PARKER was pleased to see her edited book, *Beyond Black and White: Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the U.S. South and Southwest*, published in the winter of 2004. She has recently participated in a few public history projects. Among them, she served as a “talking head” for a documentary on radical free-thinker Frances Wright. She also acted as a consultant for Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) filmmaker, Carl Byker, on an NEH grant proposal for his documentary film on Prohibition. Finally, she was interviewed by Antonio Anadio, a PhD student at the University at Albany for a project entitled “Censorship and Culture Wars.”

JAMES SPILLER’S essay “Radiant Cuisine: The Commercial Fate of Food Irradiation in the United States,” which analyzes food, nuclear technology, and American cold war culture, has been published in the October 2004 edition of Technology and Culture, the professional journal of the international Society for the History of Technology.

ROBERT STRAYER since retiring from Brockport in May 2002 has been living with his wife Suzanne in a delightful little village (La Selva Beach) on the central coast of California about 10 miles south of Santa Cruz or 90 miles south of San Francisco. They have a small cottage-like home near the coast and a small yard, where he picked their last tomatoes in late October. Professionally, he has been learning the life of an adjunct professor, teaching at UC Santa Cruz, CSU Monterey Bay, and Monterey Peninsula College as well as taking part in a large adult-education project in Monterey. Shuttling among these three levels of the California state system of higher education has been an education in itself...and one that has confirmed his impression of Brockport’s Department of History as something of unique and enormous value. On the scholarship front, he is continuing to edit the McGraw Hill World History Series and has written a short post-1500 text for that series as well as a volume on The Communist Experiment, comparing Soviet and Chinese communism. Most recently, he has signed a contract with Bedford/St. Martin’s to write a two-volume World History text over the next several years.

BARBARA THOMPSON, who teaches in the Departments of History and African and Afro-American Studies and is director of the CSTEP and Ronald E. McNair programs, was honored at a blue ribbon reception on Thursday, November 11, 2004. These two programs serve students who are first generation, minority, financially disadvantaged or underrepresented in the professions as they aim to continue their education on a graduate level. From 2001-2003, Barbara raised more than $500,000 in state and federal funds.

WANDA WAKEFIELD continues her active involvement in luge. This December she will be in Lake Placid officiating at the third luge World Cup for the 2004-2005 race season. She is also completing an article “All Downhill from Here: Sliding Sports and the Amateur Sports Act of 1978” for the 2005 NASSH conference and further publication.

ALUMNI NEWS

DR. ROBERT K. BRIGHAM, BS ’82 served as guest editor for the October 2004 issue (Vol. 18, Number 5) of the Organization of American Historians Magazine of History. The issue was devoted to the Vietnam War and Brigham also wrote the Foreword, “The Wars for Vietnam.” Brigham is the Shirley Ecker Boskey Professor of History and International Relations at Vassar College. Among other books, he co-authored with Robert S. McNamara and James G. Blight Argument Without End: In Search of Answers to the Vietnam Tragedy (1999). The University of Kansas Press will publish his latest book, ARVN: A Social History of America’s Ally in Vietnam.

CHRIS BROWNWELL, BA ’00 recently passed the Virginia Bar Exam. He was also selected for commission in the USAF JAG Corps. He will enter as a 1st lieutenant and in six months will be promoted to captain. He will most likely be stationed at Langley AFB in Hampton, Va. which is only a short move from Virginia Beach, where he now lives. He thanks Steve Ireland for all the input he poured into his life while he was at Brockport and writes “my BA from Brockport has made me a better writer and analytical thinker, and will make me a better lawyer.”

NICOLE CAMPANALI, BS ’03 received a scholarship from the Purdue University School of Education where she is studying for her MA. She currently has a 4.0 GPA.

JEANNETTE FORD, BA ’75 is still teaching at Bethune-Cookman College in Florida. She recently went on a Freeman Foundation field study to China to study ethnic minorities. She also had an article published in the Orange County Florida Historical Association Journal entitled “Mary McLeod Bethuen and Bethune-Cookman College.”

CINDY FRASIER, BS ’04 was admitted to the Masters in Education program at Roberts Wesleyan.

DIANE FULKERSON, MA ’04 is currently enrolled in the Library Science program at the University at Buffalo. In October she presented a paper on “British Women, World War One and Feminism” at the New York State Association of European Historians. In November she presented a paper on Franklin D. Roosevelt and his Farm
Policy as Governor of New York at the Researching NY Conference at the University at Albany.

JOHN FURGELE, BA ’91 is a sales representative with Steck-Vaugh Publishers. He and his wife Bethany have two children, John Lewis (born 8/22/01) and Olivia (born 10/20/03).

JASON T. GENTILE, BA ’98 is a captain the US Army assigned to the 3-21 Infantry. He thanks Professors Kathy and John Killigrew and Lynn Parsons whose lessons in history and life he uses to this day with his soldiers and peers.

DERAL GIVENS, MA ’93 has passed his NYS Bar Exam. He will begin a new position as a law guardian in Monroe County after twenty-five years with the Rochester Police Department and will be retiring from the force as a Lieutenant.

PETER GRANICK, BS ’79 is now vice president, Sourcing and Procurement Strategies for Beazer Homes of Atlanta, GA, a Fortune 500 company. Peter began his career with 15 years at Mobil Corporation and then became director of strategic sourcing for General Signal corporation. In 1997 he joined PricewaterhouseCoopers as a director in their Procurement Business Process Outsourcing practice. Peter writes that the “last few jobs had me traveling all over the world (42 countries in the last four years in Asia, Europe and South America).”

NIKOLAS HALL, BS ’04 now lives in Denver and works as a demand paralegal for Franklin D. Azar and Associates, a local law firm. He writes demands for settlements in personal injury cases. It “may not be glamorous but it pays off those pesky student loans.”

MARK DE JONG, BS ’93, MA ’97 has taken a new position in access services/reference services with the Thurgood Marshall Law Library of the University of Maryland. De Jong has co-authored an article, “Making Your Library’s Website Accessible,” published in the Fall 2004 issue of Library Philosophy and Practice.

TERRY LEHR, MA ’95 has recently published her fourth institutional history: For Those Who Shaped Our Heritage: A Centennial History of the Fairport Baptist Home. The previous three books were: To Serve the Community (Rochester General Hospital 1997), Let the Art of Medicine Flourish (Rochester Academy of Medicine 1999), Lighting the Way (St John’s Home 2002). She also organized the on-line exhibition on the smallpox epidemic of 1903 and the Spanish Influenza of 1918 at www.viahealth.org.

KERRY SCHAMEL, BS ’99, MA ’01 has been working for a number of cultural resource management firms from New Jersey to Virginia to Kansas. She has excavated early woodland village sites in Northern Pennsylvania where they discovered the longest longhouse ever found there. The earliest date recorded on this particular site was somewhere in the early to middle archaic time period. In New Jersey she excavated a Potters Field which had roughly 4,000 burials. She has worked on early archaic sites on an island in the Susquehanna River in PA to Civil War and early American sites in VA. Currently, she is working for a firm in Fredericksburg, VA as a project archaeologist. Finally, after 3 1/2 years of back-breaking digging she finally was offered a supervisory role. She loves her job and wakes up every morning excited to go to work. How many people can say that?

STEVE O’SHEA, BA ’87 (with CLAM in Chinese studies) and his wife Carol are owners and managers of The Express: a café and bakery in Savannah Georgia. Steve and Carol lived for years in Hoboken, across from lower Manhattan, where he was a financial officer for the Bank of Taiwan and Carol was a Wall Street lawyer. Steve met Carol when he took Chinese language at Brockport as part of his CLAM and in the early 90s they were married in Tiananmen Square in Beijing, Carol’s hometown in China.

D. GREGORY VAN DUSEN, BA ’69, MA ’83 and JACQUELINE HINDS VAN DUSEN, BS ’69, MS Ed ’74 have recently become grandparents. Their new grandson, Aidan was born in February. Greg is currently senior pastor at the Baker Memorial United Methodist Church in East Aurora and Jackie is retired from the Albion Central School.

CEDRIC E. WALKER, BS ’87 was SUNY Brockport alumni of the month in December. Since 1986, Walker has been the head coach of the Flower City Track Club (FCTC) in Rochester. Being the head coach, he is responsible for recruiting, fundraising, practice planning, budgeting, supervising assistant coaches, travel coordination, promoting women’s athletics and representing the FCTC in the community. He is also a social studies teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School in Rochester, NY. His favorite class at Brockport was Chinese history with John Killigrew.

KATHY BRUNETTO WHITE, BA ’98 received her Masters in Education from SUNY Brockport in December 2003. She is currently a seventh grade social studies teacher in Gates-Chili. She thanks Dr. Leslie and Dr. Corey.
On February 17 some 200 students and faculty gathered in the New York Room of Cooper Hall to hear 1974 Brockport history alumna Dr. Nancy Hewitt give a lecture entitled “Suffrage to Seneca Falls: Global Perspectives on U.S. Women’s History.”

Dr. Hewitt is Professor of History and Women’s and Gender Studies and Director of the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University. She has authored two historical monographs and some three dozen journal articles, as well as co-edited another five books of essays used in college history courses. Her first book, which evolved from her PhD dissertation at the University of Pennsylvania, traced the origins and evolution of women’s social activism in antebellum Rochester, NY. Her current project is a biography of Rochester Quaker activist Amy Post.

The subtitle of Dr. Hewitt’s talk, “Global Perspectives on U.S. Women’s History,” revealed her main focus—the much earlier and geographically broader origins of women’s rights and the on-going trajectory after Seneca Falls. American historians have begun to situate the events and processes of their own history into a global context, and Hewitt’s talk began that effort for the history of women’s rights. Moreover, Hewitt emphasized the racial and ethnic dimensions of her topic. For example, when women received the right to vote in Arizona in 1912, women of Mexican descent were excluded. Moreover, just as Anglo women were fighting to pass married women’s property rights acts, Hispanic and Native American women were being forced to give up their customary rights to their lands.

Hewitt told students at an after-talk dinner that she had dropped out of another college and was working at a Rochester Dunkin’ Donuts when she took her first SUNY Brockport history class. That course with Emeritus Professor Robert J. Smith led her back to full-time college studies. The rest, as we like to say, is history.
A Visit From Ireland

On October 25-26, Vincent Comerford, chair of the Department of History at the University of Maynooth visited the Brockport campus as part of a new exchange program between the two schools. Brockport students were able to meet Dr. Comerford and find out more about both Maynooth and Ireland. An evening lecture entitled “Inventing Ireland” was well attended. The following is a student review of its content. Dr. Comerford is the author of *Ireland: Inventing the Nation* (2003).

Reviewing ‘Inventing Ireland’
By Jason LaDue, History Major

Historian Dr. Vincent Comerford argued last night at SUNY Brockport the concept of an invented nation is based on choices each society makes. Using these decisions, society will increasingly invent themselves into a nation complete with a strong feeling of nationalism. The strong desire of people to be a unique sect is commonly based on cultures or beliefs, such as music, language and ancestry. These cultural aspects of unity provide an interesting arena for the historian to study the development of nationalism. Political states are quick to transform into a nation, by the unifying force of similar cultures, religions. These common features of an emerging nation gain true nationalistic characteristics when the people are unified by a common image, such as a national flag.

The Reformation and Counterreformation represented a time of vast redefining of nations by the acceptance or opposition to religious ideas. The late eighteenth century emerged as a time when many nations defined themselves. With the French and American Revolutions, the idea of a nation and nationality emerged and grew throughout many societies. Ireland’s invention of a nation can be traced back to the sixteenth century, but the nation became truly nationalistic during the period between the late eighteenth century and World War I. This was the renaissance of Irish culture and of proud Irish nationalism.

Dr. Comerford asserted that culture, including language, sport, dance and ancestry were foundations for a unique Irish nation. The Gaelic language in Ireland provided a national identity for the Irish from the sixth century. This was the uniform language of the upper classes, and it was replaced during the seventeenth century by English. As it was replaced, Gaelic emerged as a symbol of the Irish and Irish nationalism. Sports as well are strong catalysts for increasing nationalism in a country. During the last 20 years in Ireland, soccer has truly mobilized the Irish with more unified feelings, in both international and regional championships. Additionally, a national sport, such as hurling in Ireland, Australian Rules football in Australia or cricket in Pakistan strongly influence greater feelings of nationalism. Dancing and music played an important role in the invention of Ireland as nation. During the late eighteenth century, the Irish League for dancing was formed. This body governed rules for what proper Irish dancing would be, across the globe. These rules firmly set the standard for what would be viewed as authentic Irish dancing.

Origins of common ancestry provide bonds of nationalism. For the Irish, the publishing of the *Archaeologia Britannica* in 1707 was important in the invention of their nation. This book stated that the Irish and Welch languages were related to each other, as both were associated with the Gaulish language. These three languages now formed the Celtic language. This feeling of association with the Gauls and Welsh was first resisted by the Irish, but during the eighteenth century, Ireland accepted their Celtic nationality, even if it was an invented one. Ultimately, Dr. Comerford argued that the invention of a nation and arrival of nationalism comes from choices made from people living in that country, via common culture, language, history and social spheres.
Alumni News

Attention History Alumni! We’d like to hear from you. To make it easier, please fill out, clip and mail this form to: Newsletter, Department of History, SUNY College at Brockport, 350 New Campus Drive, Brockport, NY 14420-2956. Or reach us by e-mail: trombaut@brockport.edu. You can also fax us: (585) 395-2620. Check us out on the web at www.brockport.edu/history. Many thanks!

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