

The PRIMARY SOURCE

The Newsletter for the Department of History at the University of Idaho

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The Bruce M. Pitman Center

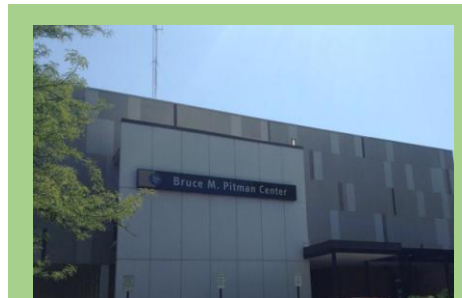
A Legacy of Student Gathering

In October 2014, the University of Idaho announced that it was renaming the Idaho Student Union Building (SUB) in honor of Bruce M. Pitman. Pitman recently retired after more than forty years of service to the university, in roles including Greek Advisor and Dean of Students. Yet the new name is only the latest chapter in a longer story for the Student Union Building.

Before the construction of what is now the Pitman Center, there was an early student gathering place across the street called the Blue Bucket Inn. It was established in 1924 by the Dean of Women, Permeal French, as a place where college students could have “suitable” fun. The Blue Bucket Inn had a soda fountain, fireplace, ballroom, tearoom, and dining rooms, as well as kitchens. Much like today’s Pitman Center, many campus events were held there and student organizations could make reservations for meetings and functions. It gave

Idaho students a place gather and to have a good time.

In 1936, the University bought the structure and, in the following year, the Blue Bucket Inn was transformed into the official Student Union Building. Between the 1930s and the 1960s, the building was continuously renovated and expanded. Despite the changes, the SUB always had a small café or snack bar where students and faculty could eat. Then, in the mid-1960s, the old Blue Bucket/SUB became the student bookstore



The recently renamed Bruce M. Pitman Center on the UI campus, formerly the Student Union Building (SUB)

and the University built the current Student Union/ Pitman Center across the street. The opening festivities featured none other than the famous jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong, who played as students danced in the new ballroom, the largest in the state of Idaho. Soon after, the old Blue Bucket was razed and replaced with a new bookstore building. But tradition dies hard -- strikingly, many students continued to call the new student center the “Blue Bucket.” The University has renovated the Pitman Center many times since the 1960s. Over the years, the building has boasted amenities such as a twelve-lane bowling alley, pool tables, television rooms, and stereo listening rooms. Even today, the ASUI offices, ballrooms, study areas, and student media offices remain there. Yet it seems that its role as campus center has declined recently – especially after the University opened the Idaho Commons in 2000.

The Bruce M. Pitman Center has a rich history of student involvement. It is an appropriate legacy for a building now named in honor of a dedicated Dean of Students.

~Shannon Kelly

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you so much for reading the spring-summer edition of the History Department's bi-annual newsletter, The Primary Source.

First, it is with great sadness that we report on the loss of our dear friend and colleague, Herman Ronnenberg. Herman was originally a graduate of our PhD program and he was a highly distinguished public historian, working heavily on Idaho and the Pacific Northwest. No doubt, he was best known for his studies on beer and the world of alcohol production and consumption in our state, but he also did many striking studies of family and local life in Idaho, contributing greatly to our understanding of the social and cultural history of this region. For many years he taught history for us here at the University of Idaho, distinguishing himself by his historical zeal and boundless enthusiasm for his students. He will be missed terribly, and we send our deepest condolences to his wide network of family and friends.

Elsewhere in the newsletter, you will find interviews with our fabulous undergraduate students, notes on our yearly Phi Alpha Theta activities, a summary of Professor Jager's current research program as well as an update on faculty productivity, and a student review of a recent pioneering book in the history of science.

Further, I should also like to take this opportunity to highlight the significant degree of original undergraduate research and collaboration taking place in our Department. In addition to Becca Stuntz's co-authored publication with Professor Sowards (discussed below), we would like to underscore the contributions of our other students. There's always the Phi Alpha Theta conference, which the Department is proud to support and fund each year. In addition to this annual event, undergraduate students such as Gustave Lester, Connor

Freedman, Steve Lomax, and Scott Caldwell were able to present their original work in professional conferences across the country. We should acknowledge that these opportunities are, in many ways, funded by the generous support of our alumni and friends of the Department, and we're deeply grateful for your continued generosity and commitment to our program.

Lastly, I must say the Department has had an absolutely banner year in placing our undergraduate students in cutting-edge graduate and professional programs across the United States and the United Kingdom. This upcoming fall, our graduates will be entering institutions such as Harvard University, Princeton Theological School, Oxford University, and Colorado State University — just to name a few — joining our long and proud tradition of placing many other students in prestigious institutions of graduate and professional study. As the Department's recent outside review has emphasized, few programs can boast a continuous placement record as impressive as ours. We're incredibly proud of these graduates and all our students, and we wish our 2014–15 graduating class all the best as they begin the next phase of their life's journey!

As always, we deeply appreciate your readership and support — and we're always eager to hear from our friends and alumni. Please always feel free to drop us a line! We want to know how you're doing.

Most sincerely yours,

Sean M. Quinlan,

Professor & Chair

Magna Carta turns 800

Eight hundred years ago, King John of England met with his barons in a field not far from London. There, under the threat of physical harm, he signed a large charter that guaranteed liberties for both the barons and the king. It would prove to play a vital role in the development of the English Constitution, and later, our own United States Constitution. This charter was known as the Magna Carta.

For all intents and purposes, this story began almost a generation earlier. In 1199, John inherited a kingdom in debt upon the death of his brother, Richard the Lionheart. Although a quintessential warrior-king, Richard had been ineffective at managing the country's treasury. He was also responsible for other financial misfortunes: he spent enormous sums on the Third Crusade and was then captured while returning so that England had to pay a ransom for his release.

During this period of medieval European history, England and France were nearly always at war. This was because the rulers of England held valuable lands in France, which the French kings wanted. War broke out again during Richard's reign, and continued to consume John's reign. In 1204, John was defeated by King Philip II of France at the Battle of Rouen. As a result, John lost valuable English land holdings in France, including Normandy. Known as "the patrimony," Normandy had been home to William I ("The Conqueror") and had been essential to Richard's, and then John's, claim to the English throne. In addition to exacerbating the financial problem, this loss also became a matter of pride. John's primary focus became trying to take it back. For this, he needed money.

Feudal society was built on contracts, in which a lesser lord agreed to serve a stronger lord in exchange for protection. Under a feudal contract, the lesser lord had to agree to a term of military service. Over time it became customary for these lesser lords to "buy-out" their military service. Due to the economic crisis, John came to demand this payment from his vassals more frequently and at a higher rate, thus violating custom.

In 1214, John went to war with France to reclaim his losses. He was defeated at the Battle of Bouvines. All of the money he had been raising for ten years was lost. More importantly, John lost his prestige as a ruler because he was seen as a military failure.

A group of barons in England objected to the tactics John used to raise money. Tired of feeling exploited, and with John's position weakened by military defeat, they rebelled. John's political and economic failures had become sufficient cause for

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Faculty Spotlight:

Dr. Becky Jager offers new perspectives on American Indian women and the history of women's sports in the Cold War



This upcoming fall, Dr. Becky Jager will publish a book entitled *American Indian Women as Culture Intermediaries*. In this book, Jager takes a new approach to an important topic. She said, "Much research from the past few decades has depicted Indian women as exploited people and as victims. I've shifted the paradigm of Indian women to show their history not necessarily through a feminist or gender lens but through a cultural lens."

When Europeans first arrived in North America, the continent was already home to millions of native peoples with many complex societies. Jager argues that the Europeans were so outnumbered that the Indians often dictated the rules on economic and diplomatic ties. The women, she says, were often the intermediaries between cultures. American Indian women served in diplomatic roles between their tribes and European men via Indian sanctioned unions or marriages, cultural exchanges, and roles such as translators.

In this way, Jager analyzes how Indian women lived within the context of their time and culture. If you look at European records, says Jager, they had a lot to say about Indian women. "These records were strategically crafted by explorers and officials so as to get accolades and promotions, but they still wrote about the women. They often acknowledged that they relied on these women for cultural information in both directions. The Europeans received information about the land and the people who lived there, and the Indians learned about the Europeans."

Jager says it is interesting to see how different ideologies have represented American Indian women over time. "Mythologies change with the times," Jager says. "People will either justify or criticize conquest and colonialism but either group will use Indian women to assert their claims. One generation of historians depicted these women as an example of a beautiful continent while another wrote about them as exploited victims of imperialism. The changing 'foundational fictions' about national origins are involved in these shifts." Jager also tries to steer away from writing a victim's history and instead discusses the power that these women held.

After publishing her book, Jager is turning to sports history. She is excited to have received a grant to study athletic feminism in the twentieth century. The first part of her research is about how the Cold War changed women's sports. "The 1952 Olympics was the start of a turning point in women's sports," Jager says. "The Soviet Union debuted in the Olympics and performed very well. Their women's athletic teams dominated over the United States' teams. In the 1956 Olympics the Soviet Union greatly surpassed the United States in the medal count for men's sports and women's sports combined."

The effects, she says, were monumental. "The American response was the creation of a more systematized structure for athleticism that spelled the end of the amateur athlete. Cold War presidents like Eisenhower became more focused on athletics than their predecessors." Control over women's Olympics and other sports fell out of the hands of women and into the hands of international politics.

The rest of the Cold War was spent innovating in sports science, sports administration, and women's sports. Previously, the United States chose its athletes from among an elite social group, whereas the Soviet Union chose from a broader group. Now America began asking itself where it could find great athletes. Jager says that all of these things contributed the eventual advent of Title IX of the United States Education Amendments of 1972, which legally mandated women equal opportunities in sports and other school or education related activities. This also gave women the opportunity to earn athletic scholarships in the same way men already did. Jager says the Cold War boosted options for female athletes.

Dr. Jager's research covers two very different but interesting topics, but they have one thing in common. Throughout, she emphasizes how women are not side stories to sociopolitical narratives, and she foregrounds how their experiences both shape and reflect broad global developments in history.

~ Shannon Kelly

Magna Carta

Continued from Page #2

open war. After an initial stalemate, the barons gained the upper hand when they won the support of a powerful ally, the city of London.

Now at a distinct disadvantage, John agreed to sign the Magna Carta. In reality, he simply wanted to buy more time. He had no intention of honoring it, and its importance was not immediately realized. John appealed to Pope Innocent III to have the charter annulled on the grounds that he had been coerced. Three months later, the rebellion continued. John died in 1216, and his son, Henry III, was forced to renew the Magna Carta. Later, the charter's invocation and renewal became customary.

The Magna Carta consists of 63 clauses, of which only three are still active in English law: clause 1, concerning the freedom of the Church of England; clause 9, concerning the customary laws of London; and clause 39, a right to due process. Other issues covered in the other clauses include the status of women, the rights of towns, inheritance, and legal procedure, in addition to many other issues. Many of these were repealed from this charter because they were updated in other legal documents.

As a primary source document the Magna Carta offers a glimpse of life in England during the early 13th century. Some of the laws are considered "descriptive," such as clause 39, which established a right to due process. It reads, "No freeman shall be taken, imprisoned, disseised, outlawed, banished, or in any way destroyed, nor will We proceed against or prosecute him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land." This law would put an end to arbitrary search and seizure. This is also an example of "prescriptive" law, because it establishes something new. In this case, it puts the rule of law above the king. As Professor Ellen Kittell explains, "This was one of the first places on the planet where this was so."

Professor Kittell argues that the legacy of the Magna Carta lies in constitutional history. "It's a long document, and the reasons for it are almost less important than the interpretation." She explains further, "In 1552, a jurist by the name of Edward Coke mined the Magna Carta to establish the importance of individual liberty and the prestige and authority of Parliament, and thus made it relevant during the 16th century. This of course set a precedent for elasticity, and became a crucial step in both the constitutional history of England, as well as that of the United States."

Although a failure as a peace treaty, the Magna Carta had long-lasting consequences that were unforeseen at the time. Since its signing, 800 years of constitutional history in England and its subsequent territories have been indebted to a group of rebellious barons and an ineffective king trying to keep his realm together.

~ Ben Bridges

Debbie Husa: History Department Hero



On April 22nd, Administrative Professional's Day, I hope you thought about all the administrative assistants who have helped you out in your daily life. This is the day to appreciate the people that worked in your high school office, the ones that staffed the doctor's office you went to as a child, and the folks that helped you when you were scared to see the dentist. But most of all, let us all take a moment to thank Debbie Husa in our very own history department.

Ms. Husa tirelessly helps us out when we need something done in a hurry. You can't find a class you need to register for? Talk to Debbie. You need a hold released or you need to get into a senior capstone class? Talk to Debbie. Debbie is the one constantly sending us reminders about those pesky deadlines we keep forgetting, the one that organizes the welcome back dinners we all enjoy attending, and the woman that generally makes our lives a whole heck of a lot easier.

I got a chance to sit down and talk to Debbie about her life, her family, and everything she does to make the department run smoothly. If there is an event you are attending, odds are Debbie helped organize it. For students, she is responsible for everything from setting up internships to working on course scheduling. She is even able to help point seniors in the right direction for graduate school.

A native of Redding, California, Debbie earned an associate in arts degree in 1994 in the Legal Assistant studies field. She then worked with the Interstate child-support caseworker unit in Shasta County California, first as a temporary clerical typist and then as an out-of-state caseworker, all the while supporting her four children. Before taking up her position at the University, Debbie worked for almost seven years as a Senior Legal Secretary with the Federal Defender Services of Idaho, Capital Habeas Unit. She left employment there during the summer of 2009 because she chose not to relocate to Boise. Debbie also worked for some years for Idaho's Health and Welfare Adult Mental Health.

As a 2011 graduate of Lewis and Clark State College with a BAS in Paralegal Studies, Debbie knows exactly what students struggle with and what students are capable of accomplishing. Debbie says LCSC is when she grew to appreciate working directly with other college students. In her words: "My undergraduate degree was a wonderful time... I really believe that obtaining a higher education is such a gift!" Debbie continues to do this job because she finds it rewarding to work with the UI faculty and see history students graduating.

Next time you're in the History wing of the Administration Building, you should drop by and say thanks to Debbie. You could bring her a flower, a cookie, or just say "hello." She deeply treasures all our students, and her hard work and wonderful disposition help make the Department of History such a wonderful place to study.

~ Scott Cardwell

Recent Faculty Publications and Awards

Dr. Somaditya Banerjee

"The Indian Advantage." *Science* 348, no. 6240 (12 June 2015), 1214.

"Periphery on the Centre: C.V. Raman, Colonial Physics and Indian Modernity," presentation at the History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 6-9, 2014.

Summer Research Grant, College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (University of Idaho)

Kurt Olsson Early Career Research Fellowship, College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences (University of Idaho)

Dr. Ian Chambers

"The Empire Visits the Metropolis: The Red Atlantic, Spatial Habitus, and the Cherokee," *Atlantic History: Global Currents*, 12:2, (June 2015).

"The Kootenai War of '74," presentation at American Society for Ethnohistory Conference Indianapolis, October 8-12, 2014.

"The Challenge from the Periphery: The Rebellions of 1715" (with Steve Lomax), Presentation at Front Range Early American Consortium Annual Meeting, University of Utah, October 24-25, 2014.

Dr. Dale Graden

"A Force for Transformation: The Memory of Ali Primera in the Street Art of Caracas," *Nacla: Report on the Americas*, 46:3 (Fall 2013), 64-71.

"O caso do *Bella Miquellina*: trafico de africanos, tensoes, medos e luta por liberdade nas aguas da Baia de Todos os Santos em 1848" (with Paulo Cesar Oliveira de Jesus), in *Barganhas e querelas da escravidao: trafico, alforria e liberdade* (Salvador, Brazil: Editora UFBa, 2014), 61-100.

Dr. Sean Quinlan

"Demonizing the Sixties: Possession Tales and the Crisis in Medical and Religious Authority in American Popular Culture," *Journal of American Culture* 37 (2014): 314-30.

"Writing about the Natural History of Women: Doctors, Medical Genre, and Readership in Post-Revolutionary France," in *Women, Gender and Disease in Eighteenth-Century England and France*, ed. Ann Kathleen Doig and Felicia Sturzer (Cambridge, 2014).

"Altered States and Post-Revolutionary Values: Heightened Sensibility, Intuition, and Imaginative Expression in the Philosophy of Maine de Biran," presentation at the joint History of Science Society/Philosophy of Science annual meeting, Chicago, November 6-9, 2014.

"Gothic Neo-Classicism: Anatomy, Art, and Politics after the French Revolution," invited lecture, Department of History, Arizona State University (in honor of Rachel G. Fuchs) (April 2014).

Dr. Adam Sowards

Idaho's Place: A New History of the Gem State (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014).

Dr. Rick Spence

"John Reed, American Spy?: Reed, American Intelligence and Weston Estes' 1920 Mission to Russia," *American Communist History*, 13:1 (April 2014): 39-63.

"Erik Jan Hanussen: Hitler's Jewish Psychic," *New Dawn*, Special Issue, 8:3(2014):21-29.

"Afterword," in James and Lance Morcan, *The Orphan Conspiracies: 29 Conspiracy Theories from The Orphan Trilogy* (Sterling Gate Books, 2014).

Dr. Pingchao Zhu

"The Power of Public Diplomacy: Re-Examining Sino-US Normalization, 1969-1972," *Asian Profile*, 42, no. 5 (October, 2014):1-15.

"Mao's Martyrs: Revolutionary Heroism, Sacrifice, and China's Tragic Romance of the Korean War." In *Nationalism, War, and Sacrifice: Dying for One's Country*, Richard A. Koenigsberg, ed. (New York: Library of Social Science, 2014), online publication May 16, 2014: http://www.libraryofsocialscience.com/publishers/essays/zhu-maos_martyrs.html



Adam Jones

When Adam Jones attended the University of Idaho as a British foreign exchange student, he fell in love with the school and the area. Therefore, last October he decided to make the move permanent and applied for a student visa to continue his study of history at UI.

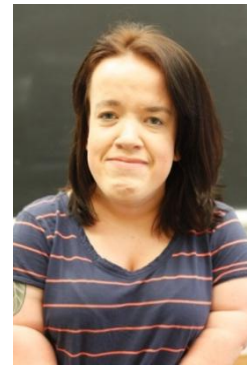
As a native of Liverpool, Adam spent his first two years of college at Lancaster University, England. When he got the chance to do a semester abroad last August, he chose to attend UI. After three months in Moscow, Adam decided he didn't want to return to England because he made so many friends in the region. "When I applied [to UI], they [Lancaster] accidentally sent my transcripts to Moscow, Russia, so my acceptance was delayed a bit."

After the difficulty with his transcripts, as soon as Adam flew into the Pullman/Moscow airport, where he couldn't reach the professor who was supposed to connect with him. Subsequently, after thirty-six hours of travel, he spent his first night on a mattress on a fire station floor. Adam told his anecdote with a grin like it was no big deal, and he was ready to start school in Idaho.

In Britain, students only take courses in their chosen major. So Adam found it surprising now to be taking math and English classes. "I'm taking classes in subjects that I haven't studied in four or five years," he said. "British [high school] classes are big on the Tudors and WWII...here you have to do classes in...different eras. A lot of it I've got no idea about."

Adam did not return home during Winter Intersession. Instead, he volunteered in South Carolina through an Alternative Service Break set up by ASUI. He greatly enjoyed his time helping others, but he is looking forward to going back to England over the summer and working for a few months near his family.

But I had one overriding question to ask Adam: how he handled the difference in drinking ages. After all, the drinking age in England is eighteen – three years younger than in the United States. "Yeah," he says, "but no one really cares about that, so I've been drinking [responsibly] in pubs since I was sixteen." All that changed, of course, once he encountered American drinking laws. As he confesses, "I didn't think anyone really paid attention to the age limit." Surprise, surprise! Welcome to America, Adam – and the History Department hopes you enjoy your stay.



Camilla Van Natter

"I love history. I love history so much!" A small smile was hovering on Cami Van Natter's lips as she made this declaration. When I asked why, she explained that she always did well in history courses, went on a lot of road trips, visited museums, and learned to appreciate the origins of different cultures and societies. Cami moved to Moscow from Priest River, a small town in Northern Idaho, as soon as she graduated high school. She has been attending UI for the last four years as a History major and Asian Studies minor.

Once she graduates this spring, Cami wants to find a job in a museum. After two different internships in museums in Boise over the last couple of years, she found her passion. "Of course, the Smithsonian is my obvious dream," she said. There can be no denying that for many historians, working at a place like the Smithsonian would be the ultimate expression of the craft.

Cami's primary interests lie in twentieth-century American cultural history as well as modern Asian history. Unsurprisingly, she studied heavily with Becky Jager and Pingchao Zhu. When I asked how she combines her two interests, she jokingly cited two movies: *The Last Samurai*, with Tom Cruise and *47 Ronin* with Keanu Reeves. However, in all seriousness, "We think it is so contradictory, but the [American] Civil War was happening at the same time there were samurai in Japan. It's a really interesting juxtaposition."

Cami wrote her senior capstone paper on the rise of Hollywood and celebrity culture in America in the 1920's and the conservative backlash. She combined earlier research from a high school paper on flappers and interests from her senior year in college to evaluate how much her research methodology and interests have evolved since her junior year in high school. Her paper and internships show how a major in history will help in her future endeavors.

As a member of the history honor society Phi Alpha Theta, Cami enjoys being involved in the History Department because it gives her a chance to connect with her peers. "Phi Alpha Theta as well as the [newly formed] History Club gives me a chance to get involved in the department. There's only so much history you can talk about with your non-history friends."

A fan of video games, camping, road trips, and — of course — history, Cami has been an amazing asset to our History Department. She embodies everything that the department hopes from its graduates, and we wish her the best of luck in her future undertakings.

~Scott Cardwell

Undergraduate Research

Spotlight: Becca Stunz

Becca Stunz is a senior at University of Idaho who has been studying abroad at Leuphana Universität in Lüneburg, Germany. Last year, she received a Key Fund grant from the College of Letters, Arts, and Social Sciences to work on a collaborative research project with Professor Sowards. Together, they have written and published an article: “Mobile Nature, Cooperative Management, and Institutional Adaption in Pacific Northwest Blister Rust Control.” Becca’s work and success are a real testament to the dynamic world of collaborative undergraduate research that the Department of History provides for its students.

Scott: *Like many other students, you’ve had an amazing scholarly opportunity here in the History Department. In your case, you’ve had the chance to write an article with Professor Sowards. Can you tell us what the article was about?*

Becca: Our article is about the white pine blister rust control program. Blister rust, or *Cronartium ribicola*, is a fungus that is fatal to white pine trees. The first white pines entered Europe in 1705 when Lord Weymouth planted seedlings in Great Britain, and starting in 1900 the US government shipped pines to Europe to be used as stock in commercial plantations. There they contracted diseases such as white pine blister rust; then these infected seedlings were sent back from Europe to the United States to counteract deforestation at the start of the 20th century. From there, blister rust started infiltrating our nurseries.

S: *What is the significance of this research?*

B: As most Idahoans may know, white pine blister rust not only remains a threat to pine trees today, but it devastated our white pine population. In our research project, Professor Sowards and I traced the origins of the blister rust from Siberia, across the Ural Mountains, to Western Europe, and then to the United States. The US government created the Office of Blister Rust Control (OBRC) in 1916 to stop the rust from spreading. They implemented international quarantines and took domestic measures once the rust was discovered in New York in 1906.

S: *How did you go about the research? What did you find?*

B: We analyzed the process of blister rust control, including: the interaction between federal and state governments, then various governments and private landowners; the problem of combating a pest that crossed ownership lines; intensified efforts with involvement of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the interwar years; and the evolution of eradication methods. Northern Idaho became the focus of the control program once white pine blister rust was discovered in the West. The rust actually arrived in the west at about the same time as it arrived in the east, but it was not discovered in the west until 1921.

S: *Were the federal programs a success?*

B: After the completion of the program in the 1960s, it became clear that massive resources and labor were spent on a project that some would argue was unsuccessful. The economic value of the

white pine was what drove the government to initiate the control program and to put so much time and resources into it. Ultimately, the OBRC failed to keep the disease from spreading, and the blister rust ended up shaping the control program and government policies, rather than the reverse. We can now see that the program was a black hole for those resources, but also a unique collaboration between various stakeholders.

S: *How did your collaboration with Professor Sowards come about?*

B: I took “The Historian’s Craft” [HIST 290] from Professor Sowards during my first semester at U of I. When I met with him to discuss paper topics, he expressed interest in the topic of white pine blister rust. I began doing research and found it very interesting and so I submitted my paper about it. He suggested we further research the topic and apply for the Key Grant.

S: *How hard was it to conduct the research?*

B: As it is an issue that is highly applicable to our region, we had access to many primary sources at the University of Idaho and Washington State, which was enormously helpful to our research.

S: *What is your background? What allowed you to get interested in this topic and research it so thoroughly?*

B: I grew up in Boise and after graduating from high school, I studied for a couple years at Acadia University in Nova Scotia, Canada. I studied English and was briefly an Environment and Sustainability Studies major, which increased my knowledge of Environmental History. I took a year off school and moved to Portland, Oregon, and seeing the city’s progress in sustainability also increased my interest in the subject. When I went back to school at U of I and switched to History, both factors led me to take Professor Sowards’ Environmental History course and to become involved in this project.

S: *How does it feel to co-author a published article? It’s a pretty fantastic achievement, a great thing to put on your CV. Did you enjoy working with Professor Sowards?*

B: It’s a good feeling to get an article published alongside Professor Sowards. I was able to learn from his experience and participate in a research project that processed a great deal of information. Therefore, it was good preparation for work on my thesis. It was great to have the research spaced out over the summer so that the work was fairly flexible and allowed for time to research more widely. This allowed for a deeper exploration than what is possible during the time constraints of a school semester. I highly advocate student/professor collaboration in research projects, and I hope it continues to become more commonplace in the History Department and the University of Idaho more generally.

~Scott Cardwell

This dialogue was taken from a longer transcript and altered with permission of Becca Stunz

Phi Alpha Theta News

Bella Notte Fundraiser

On Friday, April 17, 2015, members of the Pi-Theta chapter of Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society hosted their third annual spaghetti feed fundraiser dinner at the St. Augustine's Student Center on the UI campus. *Bella Notte* continued to draw a strong crowd during the University's Mom's Weekend events. As in the past, Dr. Sean Quinlan, Chair of the History Department, volunteered his time in the kitchen to serve spaghetti with a sauce made from his Italian grandmother's recipe. Also in the kitchen was the Phi Alpha Theta faculty advisor, Dr. Ellen Kittell. Additionally, the event included a raffle and a silent auction featuring prizes donated by students, members of the community, and local businesses. The event was entirely organized and run by students. The money earned goes to support chapter events and department scholarships.

Phi Alpha Theta would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who volunteered, and supported us financially and otherwise. We would like to give special thanks to StoneRidge Resort, Mingles Bar and Grill, and C & L Locker for their generous donations; to the people at St. Augustine's for their patience and cooperation; and to all those who donated to the silent auction and raffle.

~Ben Bridges



Phi Alpha Theta members prepare for *Bella Notte*

PAT Regional Conference

The University of Idaho chapter of Phi Alpha Theta was proud to have seven students attend and present their research at the Northwest Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference on April 9–11, 2015. This year's conference was hosted by University of Washington Tacoma and Montana State University Billings in lovely Lake Chelan, Washington. The annual PAT conference offers an excellent opportunity for our students to present their work and to

receive detailed feedback from faculty commentators, as well as to hear other presentations and meet fellow students from other PAT chapters.

University of Idaho students presented on topics including medieval England, the medieval Islamic world, World War I, and Native American studies. Attendees



PAT members relax between student presentations at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference.

also enjoyed hearing other presentations, exploring Lake Chelan, and attending the keynote address on the origins of World War I by Dr. Harry Fritz of the University of Montana.

This year's attendees were Tyler Brock, Scott Cardwell, Rachael Guenther, Andrew Layton, Matt McCune, Jose Rojas, and Amelia White (paper read by Amy Pendegraft). Faculty advisor Dr. Ellen Kittell also attended, graciously driving students to the conference and serving as a faculty commentator. The chapter is very grateful for the support from the History Department and faculty that makes it possible for our members to attend the conference each year.

~Amy Pendegraft

History Department Banquet

On the evening of 29 April 2015, the University of Idaho History Department held its annual Faculty/Student banquet in recognition of the department's many outstanding achievements during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Professor Ellen Kittell—advisor to the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society (PAT)—was happy to acknowledge numerous student departmental scholarship recipients this year, as was PAT president Casey Lynn Dunn regarding several new inductees into PAT.



Dr. Sean Quinlan presents a thank-you gift to Ms. Debbie Husa, the History Department's amazing administrative assistant, at the Department Banquet

This was followed by a speech from Dr. Sean Quinlan, department chair,

who was pleased to offer special recognition and praise to those students researching abroad, PAT 2015 conference attendees, NCUR 2015 conference attendees, the Primary Source Newsletter team, the many Spring 2015 graduating seniors, and to those awarded research grants.

Further recognition went to Ben Bridges, Scott Cardwell, Juan Chiquito, Casey Lynn Dunn, Jefferson Kloefer, and Amy Pendegraft, for

demonstrating exemplary departmental leadership and involvement. Finally, the department was delighted to present the W. K. Hackman Outstanding Senior Award to Camilla Van Natter, and the Carlos A. Schwantes Outstanding Graduate Student Award to Taylor Papworth.

Cheers to another successful year in UI History!

~Gustave Lester



Cami Van Natter receives the 2015 W.K. Hackman Outstanding Senior Award

Review:

Maienschein, Jane, *Embryos Under the Microscope: the Diverging Meanings of Life* (Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 2014), x + 287 pp. ISBN 978-0-674-72555-3

In recent decades, embryological research in the United States has increasingly become a focal point for social controversy, political platforming, and pioneering science. This upsurge of activity has led some to reevaluate the interaction of science and society in this field, particularly the role of government-funded research and the subsequent collecting of applied results (notably with stem-cell research). We find this cultural change of mood reflected in Supreme Court decision on *Roe v. Wade* (1973), the proposal of the “Sanctity of Human Life Act” to the 112th Congress (2012), and the rise of abortion-opposition movements (to name only a few examples).

In response, the prominent historian and science writer Jane Maienschein wrote *Embryos Under the Microscope: the Diverging Meanings of Life*. In this book, she argues that social perspectives and political decisions related to embryos should be grounded in, or at least consistent with, the conclusions of contemporary biology (such as differentiating stages of human embryonic development before granting natural or legal rights). Her method focuses on providing general readers with essential information about the historical evolution of ideas about the embryo and informing them about the practical details of the science. The result is a strikingly readable, rich, and balanced account of embryonic research in Europe and North America, and the ever-evolving meanings of life.

Maienschein begins her (not strictly chronological) narrative with the Greek philosopher Aristotle. In a markedly brief chapter, she summarizes embryological theory and research until the late nineteenth century. She categorizes this period as the transition between the “hypothetical embryo” and the “observed embryo,” stressing the all-important role of microscope technology in this process. Accordingly, most of the text is devoted to describing various research phases since the late nineteenth century, highlighting the emergence of experimental embryology, the incorporation of hereditary, evolutionary, and genetic concerns, the late introduction of the visible human embryo, and the rise of the engineered embryos and synthetic biology. While perhaps spending a disproportionate amount of time on the scientists, Maienschein nevertheless successfully interweaves the relevant social concerns and responses with the evolving scientific results.

In this way, *Embryos* is far from a passive historical narrative. Rather, Maienschein draws frequent historical parallels with contemporary issues, inspecting the intersection of science and society. Maienschein concludes that today’s society has diverging and conflicting perspectives on the meanings of life simply because most people lack sufficient scientific understanding of the facts (i.e., there’s a big discrepancy between those people who have and those who have not looked through the microscope). Maienschein does not analyze why the general population lacks scientific knowledge about embryology, and she perhaps assumes that non-specialists can easily understand current embryological research. Yet readers may infer that Maienschein’s prescription is the very book in review. *Embryos Under the Microscope* teaches readers that you need good history of science to understand our current social and political controversies over embryological science and technology.

~ Gustave Lester

Remembering Dr. Rolland

Following articles on Dr. Fred Winkler and Dr. William Greever in past editions of *The Primary Source*, we turn in this edition to one of their most animated colleagues: Dr. Seigfried Rolland. Dr. Rolland served as a professor of history and social science at the University of Idaho from 1952 until 1984, retiring as History Department Chairman. A scholarship of approximately \$1500 is awarded annually in his name to a University of Idaho history student with a demonstrated scholarly interest in the Pacific Northwest, one of Dr. Rolland’s areas of specialty.

Dr. Seigfried “Sig” Rolland was born on February 12, 1918 in New York City. He spent his childhood in what he later described as a “colony of radical left-wing people,” and attended an unstructured experimental grade school. He received his baccalaureate (1941) and masters (1947) degrees in history from Wayne University in Detroit, Michigan. During the intervening years, he served in the United States Army from 1941–1946. He served for thirty months in England, France, and Germany during World War II, and rose from the rank of Private to 1st Lieutenant while specializing in radio communications. On June 15, 1948, Dr. Rolland married Julia Edgar of Michigan, a home economics teacher and graduate of Michigan State Normal College. Together they had three children: Barbara, Marianne, and Richard.

Following the war, Dr. Rolland joined a whole generation of American male veterans who returned to the States and went to college to make themselves a better life. In 1952, he completed his PhD in history at the University of Wisconsin (Madison). His dissertation “Cadwallader Colden: Colonial Politician and Imperial Statesman, 1718–1760” was the first of many publications on Colden (1688–1776), a colonial loyalist and Enlightenment figure who served as lieutenant-governor of New York during the 1760s. Dr. Rolland continued to pursue his research on Colden after coming to the University of Idaho, especially during a 1962 sabbatical leave spent conducting research in New York City archives.

Following the completion of his doctorate, Dr. Rolland joined the faculty of the University of Idaho in 1952. As a history and social science professor, he taught courses in the history of the United States, Latin America, Colonial America, Idaho, and the Pacific Northwest, as well as African-American history. In addition to his teaching duties, Dr. Rolland was very involved in faculty government at UI. Among other activities, he assisted in the development of Faculty Council (now Faculty Senate), which still provides leadership to the university. He was chairman of Faculty Council in 1974 and served at various times on many faculty committees. Throughout his career, he was also involved in numerous professional organizations, including the Idaho Historical Society, the Pacific Northwest Council of Historical Research, and the Pacific Northwest History Conference.

Dr. Rolland served as head of the History Department from 1982 until his retirement in 1984. Following retirement, he continued to support the department by chairing the Department of History Scholarship Fund Committee, devoting great effort to increasing financial support for both undergraduate and graduate history students.

Dr. Rolland passed away on January 19, 1989, leaving an impressive legacy of teaching and service both in the history department and in the university as a whole. He was described by then UI president Richard Gibb as “a very special person...He was a wonderful conscience for the university. He had a good feel for this university and its heartbeat.”

~Amy Pendegraft

Remembrance of Dr. Herman Ronnenberg

The History Department was deeply saddened to hear of the death of alumnus and former faculty member Dr. Herman Wiley Ronnenberg, who passed away on June 2, 2015 after a long battle with cancer. Dr. Ronnenberg was awarded a PhD in Historical Archeology from the University of Idaho, and he served as an adjunct faculty member in the History Department from 2009–2014. He was a wonderful teacher, scholar, and colleague.

Prior to teaching at UI, Dr. Ronnenberg had a long and varied career as a librarian, teacher, coach, restaurant owner, and publisher. He published numerous historical books and articles on Idaho history, especially on the history of beer and brewing in Idaho, his particular passion. His many books have included *History of the Brewing Industry in Idaho, 1862–1960* (1993), *The Beer Baron of Boise: The Life of John Lemp, Millionaire Brewer of the Frontier Idaho* (2008), *Janet Manuel: The Life and Legend of the Belle of Fabulous Florence* (2009), and *Pioneer Mother on the River of No Return: The Life of Isabella Kelly Benedict Robie* (2012).

In 2014 Dr. Ronnenberg received an Esto Perpetua Award, the highest award granted by the Idaho State Historical Society, for his work on the history of brewing in Idaho.

Many UI students first encountered college history in Dr. Ronnenberg's dynamic classes on World Civilization and U.S. History. He will be remembered by all of us as a wonderful person and as a valued teacher and mentor, and he will be greatly missed by students and colleagues alike.

Our deepest condolences go out to his community of family and friends.

~Amy Pendegraft



In Appreciation and Recognition. . .

2015 HISTORY DEPARTMENT GRADUATES:

Congratulations to all of our students who have graduated with a B.A., B.S., or M.A. degree in History!

Chelsea Almas
Mark Bolland
Ryan Bovard
Ben Bridges
Tyler Brock
Scott Cardwell
Philip Carr
Juan Chiquito
Kasen Christensen
Megan Gehrke
Emily Greene
Rachael Guenther
Cody Hatch
Kelly Helm
Shannon Kelly
Nolan Knuth
Gustave Lester
Hilary Livingston
Steve Lomax
Taylor Papworth
Amy Pendegraft
Anthony Saia
Justin M. Smith
Kelsey Stanaway
Camilla Van Natter
Chanse R. Watson
Robert "Johnny" Wetherell
Dakota J. Willett
David Youle

2014-2015 DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

In total, approximately \$66,600 was awarded during the 2014-2015 year. Thank you to all of our donors for their generous support of our students!

Ben Bridges
Scott Cardwell
Melissa Courtneage
Nicholas Cousino
Richard Diehl
Rachael Guenther
Kelsie Hammer
Andrew Hand
Shannon Kelly
Jefferson Kloefer
Nolan Knuth
Gustave Lester
James MacNaughton
Larry McCune
Jessica McKenzie
Jeffrey Meyers
Rie Misaizu
Taylor Papworth
Anthony Saia
Amish Smith
Rebecca Stunz
Camilla Van Natter
Christina Vazquez
Dellyn Wage
Amelia White

2015 OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARDS

W.K. Hackmann Outstanding Senior:

Camilla Van Natter

Carlos Schwantes Outstanding Graduate Student:

Taylor Papworth

2015-2016 PAT OFFICERS

Best wishes to the newly elected Phi Alpha Theta officers for the 2015-2016 school year:

Ben Bridges, President
Scott Cardwell, Vice President
Gunn Wilson, Treasurer
Jose Rojas, Secretary
Matt McCune, Historian

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Undergraduate History