

History Alumni Newsletter

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Published semi-annually for the SUNY Oswego History Department alumni, faculty and staff, emeriti and friends.

Editorial Staff

Dr. Frank Byrne, Chair, Associate Professor,
Newsletter Editor-in Chief

Ms. Patti Tifft, Secretary, Newsletter Co-Editor

Thanks to all alumni, faculty, staff, emeriti which made contributions to this issue of the History Newsletter. If you do not see your article or story in this issue, please check the next issue we had a good response.

Speak Out

If there are comments to any of the articles or information published, please feel free to address your comments to the email address

historyalumni@oswego.edu

Submit your information for the next Newsletter or join the ListServ for the next issue. All stories, articles, career changes are Welcome!

Posted

Newsletter also on the History Dept. webpage at

<http://www.oswego.edu/history>

Thanks!

When you see this symbol on a page there are pictures, objects or links to click on allowing for a larger view or redirecting to another page (like the index) within the newsletter.



A Note from the Chair...

Dear Friends of the History Department,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the History Department's electronic newsletter! We decided to create the newsletter in order to keep friends of the department apprised of what the History faculty, staff, alumni, and current students are doing on campus and elsewhere. In this and subsequent issues you will find that many people are conducting fascinating research, traveling to and often living in interesting locales all over the globe, and building a vibrant intellectual community in the History Department at SUNY-Oswego. Since the newsletter is electronic (and green!) we expect to easily update and reissue it several times a year. We hope you enjoy reading about the goings-on of the department and I look forward to any feedback you may have. Please do not hesitate to send me your questions or comments at frank.byrne@oswego.edu. Have a great fall!

Regards,
Frank Byrne
History Department, Chair

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Dr. Gwen Kay

Is currently working on a research project - History of home economics education (college level), 1870-2000, which

examines how women were and still are taught science, at the college level, in the United States between 1960 and, well, the present day.

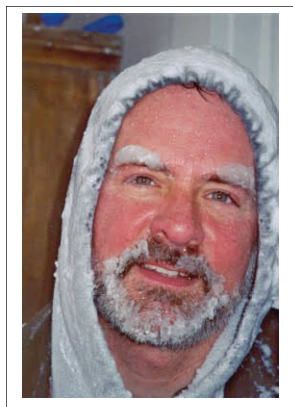
To narrow this down a bit, Dr. Kay has been and continues to examine home economic programs at 20 universities in 12 states. This past year alone, she has made exciting research trips to Corvallis, Oregon (go Ducks!) and Athens and Fort Valley Georgia. Kay indicates the time that she spends in the archives is rewarding, in part because she continually keeps meeting people working on related projects, which has not happened in any of her previous research projects.

Dr. Kay is looking forward to her up and coming trip to Happy Valley (aka Penn State). Kay can be heard saying, *"I can see why some people study European history --more exciting destinations than Stillwater, Oklahoma"*.

Dr. Douglas Deal

Dr. Deal teaches several courses in early American history and is presently conducting research in nineteenth-century U.S. labor history.

When not spending time with his family, friends, and students, Dr. Deal enjoys communing with his snow blower.



Dr. Robert Salisbury Is looking forward to offering the History of Canada as an upper division/graduate course for the Fall of 2010. The Spring semester of '96 was the only other time he taught this course here at SUNY Oswego.

Pursuing his interest in Canada, he took two trips this summer to that country. In June, he spent nine days in Eastern Canada, visiting the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. In August, Salisbury spent nine days touring Western Canada, visiting the provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba. On both trips, he was able to stop at a number of historical sites. Outside the classroom, he has continued his interest in soccer. This Fall semester, he has returned as the Faculty Mentor for both the men's and women's varsity soccer teams. He marks his third year this Fall as the Coach for the Women's Soccer Club at SUNY Oswego.

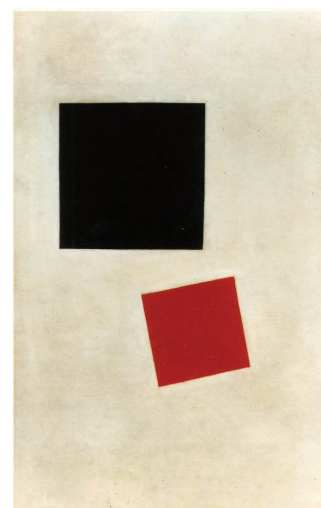
Dr. Mark Kulikowski

Has been a member of the History Department at SUNY Oswego since 1982.

Trained in modern Russian and modern American Foreign Relations, these areas of interest are, in one form or another, reflected in his course offerings each semester. They likewise form the core of his research interests.

In recent years

Dr. Kulikowski has published on topics in modern Russian history and American immigration. He has branched out into other areas as well. Kulikowski is a Contributing Editor to the American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies, and has worked extensively with the Library of Congress, the Naval History and Heritage Command, and other federal and private institutions and libraries.



Black Square and Red Square
By Kazimir Severinovich Malevich

Dr. Chris Mack

Geared up for the 2009-10 academic year as the new Faculty Athletic Representative for SUNY Oswego. As FAR, he represent the interests of the faculty and student-athletes in the operation of the Athletic department and SUNY Oswego's athletic teams.



Mack is very excited about the opportunity since it dovetails nicely with his continuing research and scholarship on the cultural history of sports and it broadens his contact with another segment of SUNY Oswego students.

Over the summer Mack continued working on his research and writing interests in the history of sports, historiography, and cultural history. Hopefully the next year or two will allow him to complete the manuscript he has been working on for some time now concerning what Mack calls, at least today, "An Experimental History of the 1936 Berlin Olympics." He also spent the summer preparing a new seminar that he is teaching this semester called "Conflict and Revolt: Europe in the Long 1960's."

Other than that Mack continues to hone his golf game and taxi his children to their many soccer, baseball, field hockey and basketball games throughout Central New York. If you come back to Oswego let Mack know and he'll meet you at a Laker game!

Dr. Uyilawa Usuanlele

(Uyi) left his native Benin City, Nigeria in 2003 to broaden his studies and furthering his research experience. Though now living far from Nigeria, Professor Usuanlele has not abandoned the Institute for Benin Studies of



ROYAL ANCESTRAL ALTAR,
BENIN CITY, NIGERIA

which he was the founding coordinator in his native country. Last year he joined the members of the Institute in planning an international conference on the theme "Aspects of the foreign relations of Benin Empire in history" and he coordinated the American end of conference. With combined financial support from ORSP, OIEP and the Institute for Benin Studies, Uyi was able to attend the conference held on 24 and 25 June 2009 and assisted with its organization. He also presented two papers—"Interrogating the origins, character and role of the Edo ne Ekue (Ado Akure) Settler colonies in the history of Benin Empire" and "The impact of Colonialism on Benin relations with its neighbours and Diaspora."

Uyi is continuing his researches on the religious history of Benin (on which he has published two articles) and Poverty, Disability and Welfare in Nigeria.



Dr. Byrne amid the ancient oaks
at Drayton Hall in South Carolina

Dr. Frank Byrne

Begins a three year term as chair of the History Department at the State University of New York at Oswego this fall. Despite the rather trying budget situation, he is looking forward to the many challenges and rewards the position offers.

This past spring Byrne benefited from a sabbatical leave that gave him an opportunity to work on his current manuscript titled "William Porcher Miles and the Arc of Southern Nationalism, 1820-1900." Squeezing work in between committee meetings and classes, he hopes to complete the project within the next year or two.

When not thinking about southern history while living in New York, thus most of his time, is spent enjoying the company of his wife Mary and their two sons Jack and Liam.

Dr. Mary McCune

Was recently promoted to the rank of Associate Professor and is serving her second year as Advisement Coordinator. Additionally, she continues to work with first-year students as a



George Mason, Jack, Dr. Mary McCune

First Year Advisor. (Many of these students have expressed interest in knowing what our alumni are doing now. Some of them love history but think ("all I can do with it is teach or go to law school"). While not dealing with the trials and tribulations of her advisees, she is busy teaching U.S. History surveys, Immigration & Ethnic History, and women's history courses.

She continues to work on a project examining the transition of settlement houses in Pittsburgh in Rochester from institutions serving an immigrant Jewish clientele to ones serving a largely African-American population.

When she is not working, she enjoys spending time with her husband Frank and shuttling Jack and Liam to and from soccer practices.

Dr. Kenneth Marshall Begins his third year as an Assistant Professor of History at SUNY Oswego.

He was recently invited to serve on the editor board for the *Journal of the Early Republic*, and is currently completing his book manuscript entitled "Manhood Enslaved: Identity, Resistance, and Survival among Bondmen in Eighteenth-Century New Jersey." A native of Trenton, New Jersey, the manuscript reflects his deep commitment to interrogating the Garden State's troubled racial past.

When not busy trying to understand the absurdity of eighteenth-century script, he enjoys watching blaxploitation flicks and spending time with his wife and partner-in-crime, Meredith. They live in Rochester.

"Threat of a Bondman: Political Self-Fashioning and Christian Empowerment in the *Memoir of Quamino Buccau, A Pious Methodist*," *Slavery and Abolition: A Journal of Slave and Post-Slave Societies*, v. 29, n. 3 (September 2008): 361-388.





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Dr. Geraldine Forbes

In July, Dr. Geraldine Forbes traveled to Nagaland, a state in Northeast India that differs dramatically from most of the Indian subcontinent. Nagaland, located in the Barail mountain range with mountains as high as 10,000 feet, and shares a border with Myanmar.

The Nagas are tribal people, traditionally fierce hunters and warriors, who practiced headhunting until the 1940s. The American Baptist mission introduced them to Christianity in the 19th century and the region is now 95% Christian and sends missionaries to other parts of the world.

In Nagaland, Dr. Forbes was the guest of Northeast Network, an NGO that focuses on women's Human Rights. Dr. Forbes stayed at NEN's Resource Centre in the village of Chizami, a hub for village development projects and the exchange of new ideas.

Dr. Forbes made this trip to see NEN's work in Chizami, and to get a visual impression of a region that is now the focus of her work on the photographs of Samuel Alden Perrine, an American Baptist missionary who took the amateur photographs of this region.



Dr. Geraldine Forbes (left)





Dr. Greg Parsons is currently settling into the new semester. He is excited to be teaching a course in the Honors program and enjoys working with the students in all of his classes.

The 2009-2010 academic year looks like it may be an interesting time for work-related travel. In January of 2009, Parsons was one of six SUNY Oswego faculty invited to join a cultural exchange trip to Turkey under the auspices of the Turkish Cultural Association. Most of their time was spent in Istanbul, but the trip also included visits to Izmir, Antalya, and Konya in Asian Turkey.

In the spring semester, Parsons will be co-teaching a class with Jessica Hester of the SUNY Oswego Theatre department. The course, "Jewish Life and the Holocaust Experience," will be taught in conjunction with a university in Kielce, Poland. As part of the educational experience, Parsons and Hester will take a group of students to Poland for 12 day in May for a conference and a tour of historical sites, including Auschwitz and the Jewish quarter of Krakow. Parsons is also planning to offer a six-week summer course on "The Great War in Europe" in London, England from July 7 to August 21, 2010. Students interested in either of these courses are encouraged to contact Professor Parsons in the History department.

Dr. Gregory Parsons

Basilica Cistern --
Istanbul



Blue Mosque --
Istanbul



Hippodrome -- Istanbul

Ephesus Ruins --
near
Izmir, Turkey



Hagia Sophia --
Istanbul



Mr. Steve Greenstein, '75

Mr. Greenstein graduated from SUNY Oswego, with a B.A. in History, in 1975. He currently works as an academic counselor at the S.U.N.Y. Educational Opportunity Center in Syracuse, NY.

Their address is: 100 New Street , Syracuse, N.Y.13202 and my phone number is (315) 472-0130. Mr. Greenstein would be glad to act as a contact person for current history majors or recent alumni.

Ms. Danielle Washington, '09

Ms. Washington is in the process of looking for jobs related to her history degree. She plans to attend law school next Fall 2010.

Interesting places Ms. Washington has visited are the Grand Caymen Islands, where she got to swim with sting rays, and Ocho Rios, Jamaica, where she climbed a 900 foot waterfall and swam in the Carribbean Sea.

Ms. Kate Botta-Raso, '99

Ms. Botta-Raso is a Social Studies Teacher at Colonie Central High School. She currently teaches 9th & 10th grade Global History.

Ms. Botta-Raso has kindly provided her email address to help assist with any questions current students or alumni may have.

Kathryn.botta-raso@southcolonie.k12.ny.us

Dr. James G. Patterson, '82



Recently named Centenary College vice president for academic affairs and chief academic officer.

*Distinguished Teacher of the Year (2004)

*Associate Professor of History (2007)

*Served as department chair of the Department of Behavioral and Historical Studies (Since 2007)

*Faculty convener for faculty council meetings (2008 and 2009)

*Author (2008)

Please click on the following link and read further information.

http://www.nj.com/warrenreporter/index.ssf/2009/08/dr_james_patterson_named_cente.html

Dr. Patterson conducted the research for his dissertation during nine months in the Republic of Ireland under the auspices of a Fulbright Scholarship. Dr. Patterson indicates his greatest accomplishment at Centenary was being named Distinguished Teacher of the Year (2003-2004). SUNY Oswego History professor, the late Dr. William George, remains an inspiration and role model to him.

Carol Hahn Patterson, wife, (also Oswego Class of 1982) is a Middle School Spanish Teacher in their school district. Their 19 year old son, Drew, is currently a History major at Penn State University (University Park) on an Army ROTC academic scholarship. They also have 16 year old twins, JD and Maggie.

Ms. Cheryl Nevelizer, '90

After Ms. Nevelizer received her BA from SUNY Oswego, she went on for a Masters in Library Science from UB in 1993.

Currently she is the librarian at Butler Correctional Facility, and also work as an adjunct reference librarian at SUNY Oswego's Penfield Library.

Ms. Nevelizer found that most students going for a MLS enter with a degree in English, and the second most popular degree is History.

Mr. Brian Rudner, '98

Mr. Brian Rudner graduated in 1998 from SUNY Oswego and, after graduating from St. John's University Law School in 2001, he has been a practicing attorney for the last 8 years. He worked as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx for almost seven years and Rudner now owns and operates his own firm in Hawthorne, New York.

His background as a history major played a significant role in his success as an attorney; the ability to examine materials with a critical eye was a skill he learned long before entering law school.

Mr. Michael Neugebauer, '98

Mr. Neugebauer is currently working as an Intelligence Analyst with the FBI at the Columbia Division. He indicates he would be happy to assist any current students which might be interested in working with the FBI.

Mr. Neugebauer can be reached by e-mail at:

michael.neugebauer@ic.fbi.gov

Mr. Brandon Moran, '03 & '05

Mr. Moran is a dual graduate of Oswego State. He received his bachelors (summa cum laude) in history from Oswego in 2003 and then with a MSED in Adolescent Education in 2005.

Since graduating, Mr. Moran has bounced around New York State searching for a social studies teaching position. He now lives in Buffalo and is currently finishing a second masters in European history with a German concentrate. Mr. Moran is working as a graduate assistant in the college writing program at Buffalo State, he is the executive managing editor of the Buffalo State Chronicle-the history and social studies education department newsletter, and currently teaching a composition course at Medaille College.

This past summer, Mr. Moran received a language grant from the DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst), or German Academic Exchange Service to study German at the Goethe Institute in Freiburg, Germany. Mr. Moran lived and studied in Freiburg throughout June and July, while also getting the opportunity to spend a few weeks in London, and visit Oxford, Paris, and Prague.

As for the future, Mr. Moran is waffling between teaching or enrolling in a PhD program in history. The education that he received in the history department at Oswego prepared him well for the path he has chosen. He has found that the writing skills he acquired in the history department alone have opened more doors than anything else.

Mr. Moran can be contacted at the following email address.

bschronicle@gmail.com

Mr. Shawn Doyle, '88

Mr. Doyle is interested in learning what fellow classmates have been doing since graduation.

Mr. Doyle lives in Pulaski, NY and has been employed at the FitzPatrick Nuclear Station in Scriba, NY since June 1988 as a security guard. He was appointed town historian for Richland Township in June 2004 and has served as President of Half-Shire Historical Society since 1994. Their group is the largest historical organization in Oswego County and represents the nine northern townships of the county along with two outside of the county.

Mr. Doyle has co-authored several books on local history. He was elected to the Oswego County Legislature in November 2005 and was re-elected in 2007. He is currently serving as Majority Leader.

Mr. Doyle is involved with several other volunteer organizations, serving in various offices.

Ms. Jaime Donahoe, '03 / '05

In 2003, Ms. Donahoe graduated from SUNY Oswego with a Bachelors Degree in History and went on to obtain her Masters in Education (Secondary/Social Studies) in 2005. Her future plans were to become a history teacher.

From 2006-2007, Ms. Donahoe worked as the community educator for the Mohawk Valley branch of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

In 2008, Ms. Donahoe started as a Residence Hall Director at the University at Buffalo, which is where she currently is now. Ms. Donahoe, now is in her second year of running a building of 500-first year students.

Mr. Michael Nolan, '05

Mr. Nolan is now living in Boston, recently married, and working for Liberty Mutual Property as a Commercial Claims Adjuster. After Hurricane Ike hit Houston in September of 2008 he spent a month in Houston working with customers and restoring their businesses. He constantly travel across the entire US, and sometimes foreign countries assisting our customers after unfortunate circumstances affect their properties and operations.

Mr. Nolan's history major has provided a great background for his current position, as he is constantly reading and interpreting contracts, leases and other legal documents, researching everything from boilers, to building components to current and past weather conditions, and writing complex letters.

This is a rather brief synopsis of my activities since graduating. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

nolan.michael.james@gmail.com

Mr. Michael Murray, '97

Mr. Murray graduated from Oswego in 1997 with his BA in History and went on to earn his masters of education from Tufts University in 2002.

Mr. Murray currently is teaching 7th grade social studies at Cuthbertson Middle School in Waxhaw, North Carolina.



Mr. Robert Mastandrea, '78

The BA in History obtained from Oswego in 1978 has certainly been of great assistance in Mastandrea's career as well as life in general. It has prepared him in the contexts of writing and research skills, comprehension and analysis of written matter, problem-solving, oral and written presentations, and the like. Moreover, the availability and relative ease of participating in the Visiting Student Program enabled Mastandrea to attend North Texas State University for one semester, further broadening the scope of his education and social experience.

Mr. Mastandrea's initial career path was in the legal field as a Legal Assistant in a variety of practice areas for major New York City law firms. Currently, these skills have been combined with hands-on construction knowledge and practices acquired in the field over the years, culminating in his position as Director of Construction for a growing real estate investment trust (REIT). Most recently, in addition to continuing efforts in their construction endeavors, he has been assigned as Director of Special Operations, dealing on a daily basis with a variety of important issues facing their business, and providing assistance to virtually every division of the company. Again, he has successfully applied skills and knowledge obtained from experience as well as his Oswego education, making him uniquely qualified to tackle just about anything unusual that comes their way.

Mr. Mastandrea firmly believes that SUNY Oswego provided him with an excellent education at a tremendous value and that the college continues to do so today, making it one of the most cost-effective sources for secondary education in the country. Mr. Mastandrea is proud to be an

Oswego alumni and a product of a fine institution that carries an increasingly excellent reputation.

Mr. Sean O'Leary, '02

After school, O'Leary enlisted in the U.S. Army for 4 1/2 years (he presently serves in the National Guard on Long Island). During his time in the service, he was stationed in Germany for two years. While in Germany, O'Leary was able to travel to Munich, Amsterdam, Berlin and Paris among other places (Luxembourg City was his favorite). After Germany, he was stationed in Fort Hood, Texas. While at Fort Hood, his unit was deployed to Iraq for a year.

After he left the active Army in February, 2007 O'Leary went home to Long Island. In May he got a job working in finance in New York City, where he is currently still working. O'Leary indicates his history degree did help get this job, though he plans on going to school in the spring to pursue a graduate degree in education.

Mr. O'Leary loves the direction that Oswego is going and he is proud to be an alumni.

Mr. Rob Liput, 87

Mr. Liput, now living in Dayton, Oh. Is an Account Manager for Hospice of Dayton, OH.

Liput is also a Battalion Commander and Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. He has been deployed 3 times with the Army, most recently to Afghanistan in 2003. Liput is married with 3 children. He believes his BA in History and American Studies has helped him through his entire life. It has allowed him to see the bigger picture in many situations and aided in his success in the Army and his civilian life.

Mr. Andy Maddix, 94

After graduating from Oswego with a History Degree, Maddix received his teaching certification in Pennsylvania from the University of Pittsburgh.

For the past 12 years he has been teaching Social Studies at North Allegheny High School just north of Pittsburgh, PA. Maddix currently teaches two 12th Grade courses: Honors History of East Asia and Honors History of 20th Century Europe.

Mr. James J. Scavo, Esq. '73

Mr. Scavo graduated in 1973 from SUNY Oswego with a dual BA degree in History and Political Science. Went to St. John's University School of Law and graduated in 1976.

Scavo was Law Review editor at St. John's. Proceeded to move to Atlanta, Georgia in 1976 and practiced law there from 1976 to the present. Scavo also has a Savannah, Georgia office. Total attorneys in his firm are about 55. He is a member of the Georgia and California Bars. He was the first class to have the History Honor's program where he finalized the year with a "practice masters thesis." At that time the Honors program included discussion group classes on a variety of topics.

In going **green** the History Department has decided to email our NEWSLETTER to our current students and alumni (whose current email addresses we have). We will also post the NEWSLETTER to our department website

www.oswego.edu/history.

Please stay connected and be sure to notify the department of any changes (via our email address), so we can update our records. We gladly accept any news or interesting facts for future newsletters. Please email your information to

historyalumni@oswego.edu

Mary Wren Bivins (1946-2009)

We mourn the passing of our friend and colleague, Dr. Mary Wren Bivins, who died at Francis House in Syracuse, New York, on August 5, 2009, after a half-year battle with lung cancer.

Mary had taught courses on African, U.S., and world history, as well as women's studies, at the college from the fall of 2005 to the summer of 2009. While at Oswego, she had also completed a revision of her book, *Telling Stories, Making Histories: Women, Words, and Islam in Nineteenth-Century Hausaland and the Sokoto Caliphate*, published in 2007 as a paperback in the Praeger series on the Social History of Africa. In what one reviewer called "a vitally important book," Mary made imaginative use of a wide range of oral and printed sources. She and her family lived for years in the area she wrote about (present-day southern Niger), and she would charm her students with stories of her own experiences there. All who were touched by her generosity and enthusiasm remember her with fondness, as do those who taught her during her years at Michigan State University, where she earned her BA, MA, and PhD degrees, and those who took her courses or collaborated with her when she was a professor at Cleveland State University in Ohio and at SUNY Oswego



Dr. Mary Wren Bivins - photo was taken in the village Mahuta in Northern Nigeria in about 1975.

The discipline of History has lost an indefatigable researcher, a sensitive writer, and a teacher who always put students first. We (her Oswego friends) had less time to get to know her well. But whether she was talking with excitement about starting a new research project on disease and the Rockefeller Foundation in Africa or pointing to birds and wildflowers she spotted in nature preserves near Oswego, she displayed a passion for life and a taste for its surprises and ironies that were contagious.

Mary is survived by her two daughters, Linda and Roberta, and a large extended family. An online guest book in her memory is available at www.legacy.com.

She will be sorely missed.

Written by Dr. Douglas Deal, Professor and Colleague

Photograph compliments of Roberta Bivins

What Can I do with a History major

Do you think if you get a History degree your career options are limited to either teaching or going to law school?

How wrong you are!

While these are worthy professions, there are many other possibilities out there for you. For example, businesses employ Liberal Arts graduates because they know how to learn new things and how to communicate. Graduates in History enter medical school, and MBA, Public Administration, and Information Studies programs because they have learned how to think critically and solve problems. Knowledge of the larger world equips students to enter international fields. Communication skills and the ability to do research and write, furnish History students with the skills needed to enter a wide range of fields from Public Relations to Events Management.

Don't sell yourself short because you majored in History. Employers are looking for people with **the skills and knowledge** a major in History at SUNY Oswego provides. These include:

Critical thinking
Research
Knowledge of issues relating to human diversity
Problem solving
Effective writing
Public speaking

Interpersonal communication
Listening
Ability to work as part of a team
Time management
Use of technology

INTERNSHIPS can provide work experience, but perhaps most important, they allow you to "try out" a career.

Students in our program have interned at the following institutions:

Richardson Bates House, Oswego, NY
Safe Haven Museum and Education Center, Oswego, NY
H. Lee White Museum, Oswego, NY
Oswego Women's Home, Oswego, NY
Oswego County Bar Association, Oswego, NY
Camp Hollis, Oswego, NY
St. Marie among the Iroquois, Syracuse, NY
Onondaga Historical Society, Syracuse, NY
Onondaga County District Attorney's Office, Syracuse, NY
Cayuga Museum of History and Art, Auburn, NY
Seward House, Auburn, NY
Historical Societies across New York State
New York State Assembly and Senate Offices
Disney World, Orlando, FL
ESPN Deportes (ESPN's Spanish Language Division)
Professional Football Hall of Fame, Canton, OH
The British Museum, London, England

"But what about the **JOBS**?"

Students who graduated with a History degree from our department are now doing the following (check back!! We will be adding to this list as we hear back from our alumni):

Yes, many have enrolled in law school. And, yes, many are teaching.

But here is what the others are doing:

Pursuing graduate degrees in History
English,
Public Administration
Sports Management
And more (keep checking back as we update our list!)

Working in an array of jobs:
New York State Transportation Office
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Border Patrol
U.S. State Department
Computer software service company
Owner/manager plumbing company
Owner/ Manager of a specialty store
Librarian And more (keep checking back as we update our list!)



Dr. Judith Wellman

Judith Wellman "retired" from the History Department at the State University of New York at Oswego in 2000 to start a business called Historical New York Research Associates. She now specializes in what she loves most: historic preservation, teaching, and research on themes relating to American ideals of equality. She works especially on women's rights, African American rights, and Native American rights as they relate to historic sites. She now teaches two online courses through the SUNY Learning Network and the State University of New York at Oswego: "Doing History Locally" and "Historic Preservation and Heritage Tourism."

Judith Wellman has worked as a consultant and principal investigator on award-winning projects with the National Park Service, the Mary Baker Eddy Library, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the U. S. Department of Education, the Preservation League of New York State, the New York State Office of Historic Preservation, the New York Council for the Humanities, the Documentary Heritage Program of the New York State Archives, National Public Radio, the U.S. Department of Education, the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville, Heritage New York, and a wide variety of local historical, genealogical, teach-

ers, women's, and preservation groups. She has also published extensively.

Books include *The Road to Seneca Falls: Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the Beginning of the Women's Rights Movement* (Urbana, Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 2004), *Grassroots Reform in the Burned-over District of Upstate New York: Religion, Abolitionism and Democracy*. New York: Garland Press, 2000), *Landmarks of Oswego County*, Editor. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1988.

Dr. David Conrad

Immediately following David Conrad's final semester of teaching at SUNY-Oswego in spring of 2005, he was in Guinea, West Africa presiding over the 6th International Conference on Mande Studies, which he had organized, and at the end of that year he was back in Guinea and Mali conducting field research. Early in 2006 he began lecturing for Smithsonian Journeys and Travel Dynamics International on tours called *The Road to Timbuktu* and *The Rivers of West Africa* that visited historic sites in Mali before flying to Dakar and cruising the coasts and rivers of Senegal and Gambia aboard the motor yacht *Callisto*. The four lecture tours from 2006 through 2009 made it possible for David to return each of those years to Guinea and Mali to continue his ongoing field research projects.

On one such visit to Guinea in 2007 en route to meet a tour group in Mali, Conrad found himself stranded in Conakry during a countrywide rebellion. As smoke rose from nearby burning buildings and volleys of gunshots were fired outside his lodgings, he spent the time assessing a collection of forty-year-old reel-to-reel research tapes made in the late 1960s by his host, the eminent Guinean historian Djibril Tamsir Niane. Subsequently evacuated to Dakar, Senegal by the U.S. Air Force, Conrad was able to take out two sample reels, and ultimately (2008-09) he removed the entire collection of more than sixty tapes and deposited it at Yale University where the research data will be digitized and preserved. Later in 2007, Conrad returned to Mali with a PBS television crew to

film an episode of *Travels to the Edge with Art Wolfe* in Timbuktu and the Sahara Desert (aired 2008).



David with Malian army bodyguard, PBS Art Wolfe expedition, Sahara Desert, 2007

The first three months of 2008 were spent in West Africa on a variety of projects that included ten weeks in Guinea's coastal Baga villages as ethno-historian on a five-member research team for Yale University. In addition to the Timbuktu & West African Rivers tour for Smithsonian that year, Conrad twice lectured for Smithsonian in North Africa on the tours *Moroccan Discovery: From the Imperial Cities to the Sahara*. On a third visit to Timbuktu within the span of a few months David was with a Discovery Channel crew to shoot an episode of *Into the Unknown with Josh Bernstein* (aired in 2008). In April David was back at Yale University to make the second of two presentations he's done at seminars there for the Baga research project. In June of 2008 he attended the 7th International Conference on Mande Studies in Lisbon, Portugal, which he had been working to organize during the previous two years. Having been the only president of the Mande Stud-

David with Baga informant Abou Camara, village of M'brn,



ies Association in the twenty-two years of its existence, Conrad chose

the Lisbon conference to formally announce that he would be stepping down, and to his surprise he was presented with a *festschrift* by his colleagues: *Mande Mansa: Essays in Honor of David C. Conrad*.

S. Belcher, J. Jansen, M. N'Daou (eds.) Zurich and Berlin: Lit Verlag, 2008.

In January 2009, immediately after the presidential inauguration, David left for his annual research trip to Guinea and his fourth Timbuktu & West African Rivers lecture tour. In March was at home in Stinson Beach, California for ten days before flying to South Africa. In Cape Town he joined the ship *Corinthian II* to present a series of five lectures on the ten-day cruise *South Africa by Sea*. This was immediately followed by thirty-five days and eleven lectures on the cruise *From the Cape of Good Hope to Gibraltar*, embarking in Cape Town and visiting Namibia, Angola, Gabon, São Tome & Principe, Benin, Ghana, Sierra



Leone, Senegal, Mauritania, Western Sahara, Morocco and Gibraltar before docking in Seville.

Conrad continues work on several book projects. With only their introductions left to finish, two of them will go to press in the coming year: *Almami Samori: A Nineteenth-Century West African Conqueror in Mande Epic Tradition* and *Safiātu and Laji Umaru: Marital Drama and Islamic Heroism in Mande Epic Tradition*. David is also co-authoring the long-delayed *Politics of the Western Sudan: Ancient Ghana, Mali and Songhay* dedicated to the late Nehemia Levtzion of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who before his death initiated that project to update his classic *Ancient Ghana and Mali*.

In 2006 Conrad received the African Studies Association's "Children's Africana Book Award" for *Empires of Medieval West Africa: Ghana,*

Mali and Songhay, the 3rd edition of which will be released in



David through mangrove swamp to Baga fishing villages, Guinea

November, 2009 featuring his photographs in color. A collection of David's photographs from his 2007-09 Africa experiences along with African art objects accumulated throughout his career was exhibited at the Bolinas Museum in Northern California from June 20th to August 2nd, 2009. In November David will be presenting results of recent research on sorcery in Guinea at the Annual Meeting of the African Studies Association in New Orleans.

The new edition of *The Norton Anthology of World Literature* will include an excerpt from Conrad's 2004 book *Sunjata: A West African Epic of the Mande People*. He recently contributed four articles to the forthcoming *Oxford Dictionary of African Biography*, and for the *Cambridge History of the World* he will be writing Chapter 22 of Vol. 5 on the West African Empires. For next year, Conrad has agreed to do the history and culture lectures for Silver Sea Cruises on a South Africa-to-Senegal voyage aboard the ship *Prince Albert II*, but he will also continue hiking and bicycling to remote West African villages for more of the kinds of serendipitous discoveries he has been making in the past few years.



Dance of the Baga mask D'mba, village of Katako, Guinea, 2008



David with Baga woodcarver George Bangoura, village of Tolkotsh, Guinea, 2008

If you wish to support the Department by adding to an award or research fund, you may do so by contacting Dr. Frank Byrne, History Department, 433 Mahar Hall, SUNY-Oswego, Oswego, NY 13126 (to donate to the History Department Research Fund) or The Office of University Development, 219 Sheldon Hall, SUNY Oswego (to donate to the Mahar Memorial History Award, the Riley Hamm Award, or the Virginia L. Radley Fellowship).

History Department Research Award

Awarded in both Fall and Spring semesters this fund assists students who want to do research for a thesis, course, or seminar but do not have

the means to travel to the libraries, archives, museums, and or other institutions that house the documents and non-documentary sources they need. For the purposes of this grant, we define research materials broadly to include not only print documents in libraries and archives, but also artifacts, oral histories, photographs, sheet music, buildings, and other sources for historical research.

Mahar Memorial History Award

This award honors the late Marion Mahar (d. 1960), Professor of Modern History, in the Social Studies Department at Oswego State. The award is given each year at the Honors Convocation to the outstanding graduating senior in the field of history.

Riley Hamm Award

This award was established by alumnus Arwin A. Hamm, Jr. from the Class of 1922. This award is given to the student who writes the best paper on the African-American experience from the colonial era to the present.

Virginia L. Radley Fellowship

This award was created in 1998 as a tribute to Dr. Virginia L. Radley (d. 1998), to laud her commitment to academic excellence and years of service to Oswego State. To qualify for this award a student must: (a) Be an undergraduate history major or a student pursuing a graduate degree in history during the spring semester, (b) have an excellent academic record.