We have exciting new things in the works in the MA program at Villanova. Many of our alumni are starting new jobs in great places, including the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Chemical Heritage Foundation, National Museum of the U.S. Navy at Washington Navy Yard, and the Archives at Anheuser-Busch. This year we placed students in PhD programs at the University of Minnesota, University of Colorado, SUNY Binghamton, and Syracuse University. Nothing gives us more satisfaction than to see our students continue to thrive.

We are delighted to welcome Andrew Liu, PhD, Columbia University, to the faculty as our specialist in Modern East Asia. Andy studies early modern and modern Chinese history within global and comparative contexts and completed a dissertation that examines the tea-growing districts of coastal China and eastern India over the course of the past two centuries. He will offer his first graduate course, Colloquium on Modern East Asia, in spring 2015.

Our program offerings in digital history continue to grow. This summer, we offered Introduction to Digital History for the first time with great success. In Fall 2014, a number of our students participated in a series of Saturday morning workshops on such things as coding, audio editing, WordPress, and GIS/Mapping. New internship placements find our students working on online exhibits at the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Nursing Archives and Falvey Library.

Students have taken the lead in developing our new blog, Historically Speaking, which has featured entries on interesting news items and travel logs from our students’ summer research travel. If you don’t yet check the site and leave comments, be sure to do so: http://vugradhistory.wordpress.com Our LinkedIn group is up and running, and we have been posting news about internships and jobs. Please join if you have not already done so.

I am very excited about our preliminary plans to offer a new class on dark tourism. Anyone who has been on a ghost tour can tell you that there is great public demand for tours that explore the underside of historical events. What can we learn about this interest and what it might mean about the state of public history? How are struggling historic sites harnessing this interest to remain solvent? How does dark tourism in the U.S. compare to those in Scotland and the rest of U.K., the Caribbean, and at the former slave markets in West Africa?

Finally, our beloved Rofinot’s Lounge now features a flat screen television, where grad students gathered this summer to watch World Cup games between classes. Please do stop by when you are in the neighborhood to say hello and to see what else is new.
DIGITAL HISTORY IMMERSION FOR VILLANOVA GRADUATE STUDENTS
By Jutta Seibert

The Digital History course offered for the first time this summer introduced Villanova graduate students to a new and growing field in the humanities. In this course taught by Deb Boyer, an experienced practitioner in the field, students learned about open source and open access, crowd-sourcing and digital assets management, georectification and creative commons licenses, and a whole lot more.

In eight sessions, Boyer and her students not only discussed current topics in the field, but also experimented with a range of data visualization applications, wrote online articles intended for a general audience, collected and entered data into a shared spreadsheet and completed a data visualization project based on the collected data. The projects revolved around Information Wanted ads placed in the Christian Recorder by African Americans looking for lost loved ones during and after the Civil War. The Christian Recorder was, and still is, the official organ of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Students had ready access to its archives andᴀnɪᴄʜs, the official organ of Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. Students had ready access to its archives through the African American Newspapers collection. All visualization, text mining, and mapping applications used in class were open access.

The final data visualization projects were posted to a WordPress blog. Information Wanted: Searching for Family in the Christian Recorder. Projects ranged from text visualization and text mining with Wordle, Voyant and Ngram Viewer to spatial and chronological data visualization with Google Engine Lite, Timeline JS and TimeMapper. Students also contributed short and informative articles about the World of the Christian Recorder to the blog.

For those interested to learn more, Cohen and Rosenzweig’s Digital History and Gold’s Debates in the Digital Humanities are excellent introductions to the field and are freely available online.

THE WOODLANDS PROJECT
By Grant Carter

In the spring of 2014, students in the Public History Practicum conducted research for the Woodlands of Philadelphia. Under the instruction of Dr. Whitney Martiniko, students researched the lives of the workers at the Woodlands (1760-1815), an early Philadelphia estate. The Woodlands is located in modern day West Philadelphia. The semester of research culminated in an event held at the Woodlands on April 24th, 2014 titled “Old House, New Discoveries,” where Dr. Martiniko’s class presented their findings to the public in the form of a tour of the estate.

William Hamilton, a grandson of famous eighteenth-century Philadelphia lawyer Andrew Hamilton, owned and managed the Woodlands. Hamilton had considerable wealth and enjoyed a variety of hobbies, including botany, horses, and throwing extravagant parties. To support his many hobbies, Hamilton employed a large workforce, but little is known about the workers of this estate. The goal of the course was to investigate the lives of these people to make them come alive in public programming at the estate. Each student was assigned a room of the house that engaged workers and investigated the workers within the context of wider historical frameworks, such as economic and social hierarchies, race, gender, architecture, and geographic and physical landscapes.

Students worked in three main research groups. The first dealt with workers and spaces within the house, including the investigation of gender, race, and power relations. The second group focused on the kitchens and lower level of the estate, and the workers who populated this space. Lastly, the third group focused on the spaces outside of the estate proper, including the stables, gardens, and the nearby neighborhood Hamilton Village, in order to demonstrate how the Woodlands influenced, and was influenced by, the outside world.

Overall, the course provided students with the unique opportunity to explore local archives, conduct in-depth research, and present their findings to the general public. Dr. Martiniko provided her class with assistance whenever it was needed. Her knowledge of local archives and historiography enabled her to lead them to sources that proved to be fruitful, and her expertise with public history allowed for her to help students new to public history adjust quickly and fulfill the Woodlands’ needs. The class also owes many thanks to staff at the Woodlands of Philadelphia for opening the estate to the students, working with them as partners, and for giving them access to parts of the estate and documents not available to the general public. The Woodlands staff has compiled the students’ findings into an interpretive plan. Estate tours will now feature prominently the workers’ lives, and the students’ research is now yielding a broader and richer view of this 18th century estate.

CHRISTINE FILIBERTI (1946-2013)

In November 2013, Villanova suffered a tremendous loss with the passing of our dear friend and colleague, Chris Filiberti. Chris joined the History Department in 2000 as our lead administrative assistant. Usually the first to arrive at the office in the morning and often the last to leave, Chris was a model departmental citizen. Possessed of an unflagging energy and an aptitude for organization that beggars description, Chris made herself indispensable to those around her. But we will remember her most for her welcoming smile, warm humor, and reassuring presence. She dealt graciously with interruptions and requests, no matter how busy she was. She nurtured us with goodies from her oven, countless gallons of coffee, and with the fond affection she had for each of us. Chris shepherded our MA students through, listened to their problems and concerns with good humor, and kept them fed. Chris’s charm and caring nature brought out the best in all of us and made our department a better place. Each of us tries to remember her in the little things around the department — the kitchen counter that we leaned on to catch up on gossip, the water bubbler that she hated to refill, the picnic bench in back of the building where she enjoyed lunch with her friends, and Rotini’s lounge that Chris policed like a drill sergeant. We thank our alumni who sent their condolences and warm wishes.
In April 2014, Dr. Diamond presented her paper “EmsDr. A portrait of land” at the Annual Meeting for the American Research Center in Egypt (ARCE) in Portland, Oregon.

Marc Gallicchio, PhD
In November 2013, Dr. Marc Gallicchio held a workshop for high school history teachers at Radnor High School, explaining the History Department’s expectations for first-year students in terms of skills and general knowledge. Dr. Gallicchio also presented his work “From Versailles to World War II” at the Education Forum, The Hill at Whitman, Plymouth Whitemarsh, PA, in April 2014. Dr. Gallicchio published a book review of Hiroshi Maeda’s MacArthur in Asia: The General and His Staff in the Philippines, Japan, and Korea, in the American Historical Review, 119 (2), 2014, 492.

In 2014, Dr. Gallicchio’s project “Unconditional Surrender and Domestic Politics” received Villanova University’s Faculty Development Grant and funding from the Earhart Foundation.

Judith Giesberg, PhD

Lyne Hartnett, PhD

In March 2014, Dr. Hartnett presented her paper “Literary Legitimacy: Justifying a Radical Life in a Revolutionary Age” at the Writing and Reading Russian Biographies in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries Conference, University College, Oxford University, Oxford, United Kingdom. At the same conference, Dr. Hartnett participated as a discussant in the roundtable “Methodological Considerations in Russian Biography.”

Dr. Hartnett was awarded a Faculty Development Grant from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova University for Summer 2014.

Jeffrey Johnson, PhD
In November 2013, Dr. Johnson presented his work “Dilemmas of 19th-century Liberalism among German Academic Chemists: Shaping a National Science Policy from August Wilhelm Hofmann to Emil Fischer, 1865–1919” at the “Chemists and Chemistry in the Nineteenth Century: A Session in Honor of Alan J. Reeder,” History of Science Society Annual Meeting, Boston. On June 2014, Dr. Johnson was an invited speaker at the symposium of the German Physical Society in Berlin, commemorating the 150th birthday of the physical chemist Walther Nernst. His talk was titled “Walther Nernst and the academic-industrial symbiosis in physical chemistry.”

On August 2014, Dr. Johnson was interviewed for two shows on the beginning of the First World War and on wartime technologies by the local Radnor Studio 21 TV station.


Dr. Johnson is about to begin a short-term Haas Fellowship at the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia as part of his sabbatical project on “Frankenstein to Artificial Life.”

Catherine Kerrison, PhD

Dr. Kerrison also received a Villanova University Faculty Development Research Grant for Summer 2014.

Whitney Martinko, PhD
Dr. Whitney Martinko presented her paper “Beyond the Picturesque: Rethinking Italian Baroque Art” at the conference “Leonardo da Vinci as Italian Renaissance Court Artist.” For the Art and Art History community at Shanghai University, he presented the lecture “Materiality, Clothing, and Embodied Phenomena in Renaissance Italy.”

In June 2014, Dr. McCall served as visiting international professor at Shanghai University, where he offered the course “Leonardo da Vinci as Italian Renaissance Court Artist.”


In 2014, Dr. Kerrison served as a visiting international professor at Shanghai University, where he offered the course “Leonardo da Vinci as Italian Renaissance Court Artist.”

For the Art and Art History community at Shanghai University, he presented the lecture “Materiality, Clothing, and Embodied Phenomena in Renaissance Italy.”

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Mark Sullivan, PhD  
Dr. Mark Sullivan was promoted to Associate Professor.

Alexander V Arias, PhD  

Rebecca L. Winer, PhD  
In December 2013, Dr. Rebecca Winer delivered a paper, “Marriage and the Jewish Wet Nurse in the Medieval Crown of Aragon,” at the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in Boston. Having held an inaugural summer research grant in 2013 from the Theology Institute at Villanova, Dr. Winer presented the research it sponsored, on Hebrew inscriptions in Latin manuscripts, at a brown bag seminar on March 2014.

Dr. Winer was awarded a Faculty Development Grant from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Villanova University for summer 2014. Dr. Winer traveled to France and Spain this past summer and continued her archival research on how and why ordinary Jewish people negotiated Latin legal and commercial transactions during the High Middle Ages in the Western Mediterranean.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Menika Dirksen’s paper “Is Any Exhibit Worthy of Stirring Up Horrid Pain, Anger, and a Fiery Debate? The Controversy of Without Sanctuary Exhibits” won Best Paper in U.S. History at Temple University’s James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference, March 28-29, 2014. Menika was awarded a fellowship at the Library Company of Philadelphia’s Millon Scholars Summer 2014 Workshop and a Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship from the Graduate Studies of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for her genealogical work on former slaves.


James Holmes won the 2014 Graduate Research Prize with his paper “I Trust the Gospel and All Its Contents.” The Depuration of the Monk and the Medieval Islamic Knowledge of the Bible,” published in Concept, Interdisciplinary Journal of Graduate Studies, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Villanova University, Spring 2014.

Michael Johnson and James Kopaczewski spoke together on a public panel, “Leaving the Emerald Isle: Trials and Tribulations of Irish Immigrants in 19th Century Philadelphia,” held at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania on November 11, 2014. The panel also featured historians William Watson (Immaculata University), Zachary Szagat (George Mason University), and Charlotte Mires (Rutgers University-Camden).

Jennifer Pumara published her paper “NAGPRA and the Penn Museum: Reconciling Science and the Sacred” in the online edition of Concept, Interdisciplinary Journal of Graduate Studies, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Villanova University, Spring 2014. She also presented a second paper entitled “Sand & Scrub: US Intervention in Libyan Independence” at the James A. Barnes Graduate Student Conference at Temple University, March 29, 2014.

Michael Thompson, finishing his studies in the program in Fall 2014, was hired by Anthaeus-Bech to work as an Archives Specialist at their corporate headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri.
ALUMNI WEDDINGS
The staff and faculty in the Department of History would like to offer warm congratulations to the following alumni who were married this summer. Congratulations to…

Amanda Reid ’10 MA and Thomas Cossentino ’11 MA who were married at St. Thomas of Villanova Church on July 19, 2014

Tom Foley ’13 MA and Emily Weir ’13 MA, Harvard, who were married on August 1, 2014, at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hershey, PA;

…and to Colin McNulty ’13 MA and Denise Diadyk-Sweeney ’13 MA who were married at St. Thomas of Villanova Church on August 2, 2014.

May your hearts be filled with love ...and your shelves full of history books!

PhD BOUND
Our students have enjoyed success in being accepted to doctoral programs!

John Baruzza ’12 MC was admitted, with full funding, to the PhD program in History at Syracuse University.

Erika Grimminger ’12 MA was admitted, with full funding, to the PhD programs in SUNY, Stony Brook and SUNY, Binghamton. Erika began at SUNY Binghamton in September 2014, working on disability in the U.S. Civil War.

Alexander Langer ’14 MA was accepted, with full funding, into the PhD Program at the University of Colorado at Boulder, with a focus on U.S. Diplomatic History.

Kent Weber ’14 MA was accepted, with full funding, into the PhD Program in History at the University of Minnesota.