



Department
of History

SPRING 2019
Newsletter



Portland State
History



FRIENDS *of*
HISTORY



Tim Garrison

Au revoir!

I write to you for the last time as Chair of the History Department. It has been a very rewarding experience leading our faculty, but I am ready to move back into the regular faculty ranks with my wonderful colleagues.

When I think about my time as chair, I am particularly proud of the work we've done with the [Friends of History](#) to raise money for the department. The Friends have funded twenty-five lectures and panels since the organization was reanimated, provided almost all of our faculty with grants to travel to conferences and archives around the world, awarded several scholarships and awards for our undergraduate and

graduate students, and funded three major departmental events: the [History Slam](#), [The Young Historians Conference](#), and the [PSU History Department Colloquium-Workshop](#). The credit for these achievements goes entirely to the [Friends of History](#) board of directors, all of whom made substantial contributions along the way. And, of course, none of this would have been possible without the leadership of my friend (and former student!), [Lou Livingston](#). I hope you will thank Lou and the board for their contributions when you have a chance to do so.

I am also grateful for the Friends because their work lifted me up as I tried to deal with what has turned out to be an extremely challenging problem for the department: a nationwide depression in student interest in the study of History. I tried every trick in the book to stem the tide (that's a cruel pun), but it has been an intractable problem. On the good days I felt like the Herbert Hoover of department chairs; on the bad days I felt like the captain of the Titanic.

I sincerely hope that our transition in department leadership will coincide with a national reawakening to the value of History as preparation for not just a career, but for life. I also long to witness a recognition in our country that an understanding of the past can actually help us alleviate and solve contemporary problems (and avoid tragic mistakes).

This leads me to the future: In January, the Department elected Dr. [John Ott](#), our historian of medieval Europe, to serve as our next chair. Many of you know Professor Ott and have sat in on his courses as an auditor or student. If you have, you know that he is an outstanding teacher. He is also an internationally-renowned scholar, and a community citizen deeply committed to the department, the university, and our students. He is particularly well-placed to lead us through the budgetary and enrollment shoals coming down the river, and I can sleep peacefully knowing that he will continue to carry the fight on behalf of our discipline.

As I close out my term as chair, I want to express my appreciation to our faculty. My distinguished colleagues went along with several of my hare-brained schemes without complaint and never mutinied when they probably had reason to do so. They offered brilliant suggestions and solutions. They always stepped up when I asked for assistance. They worked together in a collegial fashion, even when they disagreed over divisive policy matters. They treated each other with respect and appreciation, and I'm not sure you can say that about too many workplaces. I challenge my friends and colleagues to be as supportive and helpful to Professor Ott as they were of me. I have every confidence that our faculty will be his greatest intellectual resource.

What I valued and enjoyed more than anything else during my time as chair was helping students. I do not know how many hundreds of students I have talked to during my twenty-something years at PSU (and I talked to students almost every day as chair), but I have been rewarded beyond measure by listening to their life stories, talking to them about their futures, and, yes, even helping them with their complaints and concerns. There is a scene in the 1979 film *Breaking Away* where Dennis Quaid's character, Mike, complains that when you live in a university town, the students never age as you do. Unfortunately for Mike, he did not see the side of the equation that we experience as teachers. Yes, the students do remain the same age as we continue to grow old, but they also remain idealistic and energetic and enthusiastic. I have long-realized that it is the students, and our PSU students are a particularly special group, who keep me coming into the office and the classroom. I bet all of our faculty would tell you the same.

Next, I particularly want to point out how important **Jeff Brown** and **Andrea Janda** have been to the day-to-day operation of the department. I was extremely fortunate to have the two of them at my side for my entire term as chair, and I can assure Dr. Ott that he will one day be as thankful as I am now that he had two energetic, professional, and loyal aides at his side.

As many of you have read in the papers, we have just passed through a leadership crisis in the university. We do not know what the future will hold for us in that regard. However, I have been telling everyone who asked me about the future of the administration that I can only guarantee that our faculty will continue to teach and conduct their research at the highest level.

Sometimes we forget that the **History Department** has ALWAYS been one of the most important and research prolific units in the university. The university community would be wise to remember that it should look to the department for historical perspective when national and international crises call for context and reach out to its faculty when there is a need for thoughtful leadership. Historians, beginning with **George Hoffmann**, our first dean, have always played a role in university leadership at PSU. This is true on down to the present, where almost every single one of our faculty are leading programs, holding executive positions in the faculty senate, or serving on important university and union committees. It is essential to the well-being of the university that our administrators, our president and our provost, and our Board of Trustees understand the particular expertise and understanding that historians can bring to the table.

Finally: Where do I go from here? I will be taking a year-long sabbatical beginning on September 1. I will spend that time working on, among other things, a book on the Indian Removal Crisis and another on a significant Civil Rights-era murder case. I'll also be thinking about my own future. Many of you know that I've been homesick for over two decades, and one of these days I'm going to make it back home to Georgia.

I do hope you will stop by for a visit before I move out of the spacious chair's office.

Godspeed **John Ott**, and long live History!



Tim Garrison, *History Department Chair*

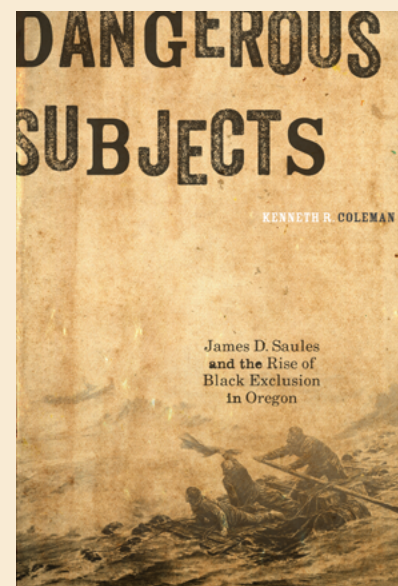
Kenneth R. Coleman Wins 2019 Oregon Book Award



Kenneth Coleman

History Alumnus **Kenneth Coleman** (MA, 2014) received the Frances Fuller Victor Award for General Nonfiction for his book, *Dangerous Subjects: James D. Saules and the Rise of Black Exclusion in Oregon*, at the 2019 Oregon Book Awards hosted by Literary Arts. Frances Fuller Victor (1826-1902) spent 35 years traveling throughout Oregon, interviewing pioneers and writing the history of the Northwest. Her works include *The River of the West*, *Early Indian Wars of Oregon*, and *All Over Oregon and Washington*.

Dangerous Subjects is an expansion on Coleman's PSU History MA thesis, "Dangerous Subjects': James D. Saules and the Enforcement of the Color Line in Oregon," which uses the life of a 19th-century black sailor who was shipwrecked and settled in Oregon as a lens for examining the state's history of settler colonialism and racial exclusion.



Coleman said of his fellow finalists which included History Professor **Katy Barber**: "We're all grappling with the legacies of colonialism and this sort of dominant ideology and tendency to view the land and animals and people as things to be mastered, commodified, rationalized, and exploited. The works of these authors (are) incredibly important because if another world is truly possible, we'll have to confront what we are doing to this one."

Kenneth Coleman moved to Oregon's Willamette Valley as a child, in the back of his family's Buick rather than a covered wagon. He left a career in marketing and advertising with the intention of studying the philosophy of history, but instead became fascinated by the complicated colonial and racial history of the Pacific Northwest. Coleman is a writer, musician, and Pacific Northwest historian. He teaches U.S. history at Portland Community College. *Dangerous Subjects* is his first book.

Jack Ohman in Conversation with David Johnson



Jack Ohman and David Johnson

PSU History Alumnus, **Jack Ohman** ('99), Editorial Cartoonist for the *Sacramento Bee* and 2016 Pulitzer Prize winner, returned to campus March 29-30 to celebrate Alumni Month.

Ohman, a graduate of PSU's Honors College, was the featured guest in an event celebrating alumni achievement. The interactive presentation had Ohman interviewed on stage by his former History Professor **David Johnson**. Ohman also entertained questions from the audience as he shared his unique political and pop culture insights.

Letter from Alumnus Joey Bradford



Joey Bradford and his partner

Hello, my name is **Joey Bradford**, and I am a recent Portland State University graduate. I graduated with a degree in history, my focus being East Asia, with a particular interest in Korean history and how it is intertwined with that of its neighboring nations.

My interest in Korean history began mostly with stories and memoirs of people who had escaped the harsh living conditions of North Korea. The accounts of those defectors eventually led to my seeking out more comprehensive accounts of how the North became the way that it did. However, it was not until my enrollment in an East Asian Relations course, taught by **Ken Ruoff**, that I realized how silly it is to attempt to learn the history of any particular country in a vacuum. It was that same course that taught me how the history of the northern half of the Korean Peninsula is mostly

interesting in how it contrasts so starkly with that of the Republic of Korea. That dichotomy would inspire my continued interest in the twin histories of the Korean Peninsula, and ultimately the next step in my meandering career path.

I used my three years at PSU to take every course offered by Professor Ruoff, including the first term that he taught Modern Korean history. I also took courses on Chinese history from Professor **Desmond Cheung**, as well as **Danny Kim**'s first Modern Korean history course at Portland State.

After achieving my degree, the next step in my educational trajectory would be applying for graduate school, seeking a master's in education in order to teach high school history in Portland. However, a medical trek to Nepal during my studies brought me to South Korea for the first time, and after leaving I decided that my 24-hour layover was wholly insufficient in satisfying my desire to learn, and experience, more about the nation's rich history and culture. So naturally, after weighing my options post-graduation, I decided to pursue a teaching job somewhere in the ROK. Luckily, Professor Ruoff was again a wealth of helpful information, and put me in contact with other former students of his so I could find out from them what would be the best way of achieving my goal.

My partner (with whom I would be applying for jobs) and I ultimately decided, with the help of the contacts from Professor Ruoff, that applying directly through the **South Korean program EPIK** (English Program in Korea) would be the best course of action. Many months and paperwork mishaps later we were hired by the Jeongbuk Office of Education to start teaching at the end of April, 2019. As I write this, my partner and I are making our way through Japan, from Tokyo to Fukuoka, with our lives in our backpacks, feeling excited and nervous about the year we are about to spend as teachers in South Korea.

I would not be where I am today had I been satisfied with my superficial interest in the stories of North Korean defectors. The education that I received at Portland State, specifically what I learned from the professors in the History Department, is largely responsible for the drive that led me to East Asia. Additionally, I would not be here had it not been for Professor Ruoff's guidance and assistance in exploring this part of the world, first through literature and study, and now through first hand experience.

Dave Hedberg films Canopy Stories

Dave Hedberg, History (MA, '16), is a producer and filmmaker working on *Canopy Stories*, an anthology of documentaries about people, place, and trees in Portland. Working with 10 professional filmmakers, Hedberg's team at **NW Documentary** asked each filmmaker to pick a tree and tell a story. Some of the films are historical, while others explore contemporary figures and introspective observations—each speaking to the individual style of the filmmaker. Hedberg's films include "**Rosa's Tree**" and "**Heroes and Villains**."



Dave Hedberg



Hedberg notes, "While filmmaking differs from historical research, my skills in oral history, historical narrative, and archival research are great additions to this collaborative project. I always wanted to make documentaries!" Hedberg also hopes to have a screening of the film at PSU sometime next fall.

You can learn more about each film, sign up for email updates to catch upcoming screenings in July, or donate to the project by visiting CanopyStoriesFilm.com.

29th PSU Young Historians Conference by Sally Hudson



Young Historians Conference Award Ceremony

On May 1, 2019, approximately 200 students from area high schools—St. Mary's Academy, Grant, Riverdale, Clackamas, and Lakeridge—participated in the 29th Annual **Young Historians Conference**, co-sponsored by the **PSU History Department**, the **Friends of History**, and the **PSU Challenge Program**, a dual credit program that offers PSU courses at area high schools for which students can earn PSU credit.

Participating students are completing courses in American History, Western Civilization, and World History. Every year, a major assignment in these classes is a history research paper. Students are invited to submit their papers to the **History Department** for an opportunity to present them at the conference. Professor

John Ott mentors a jury of History graduate students who assess the submissions and select up to thirty papers for presentation.

The conference is organized into nine concurrent sessions, organized by themes determined by the jury and Professor Ott. Each session has at least three presenters who have approximately ten minutes to present their paper. The audience includes classmates, instructors, parents, and community guests. The sessions are facilitated by History faculty members who also lead discussions of the session's papers.

This year's winners included:

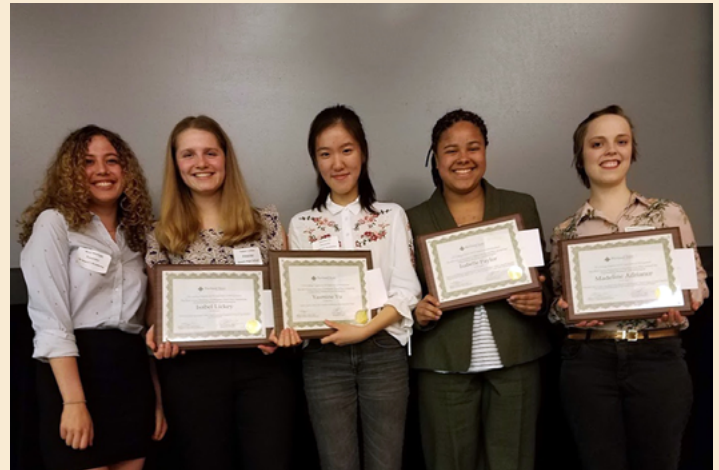
Honorable Mention:

Roni Heyman, St. Mary's Academy | "Jean-Martin Charcot's Historical Impact on the Understanding of the Mind"

Third Place tie:

Isabel Lickey, Grant HS | "Aristocracy and Agriculture: How Vergil's Georgics Inspired a Wave of Agrarianism and Imperialism"

Jasmine Yu, St. Mary's Academy | "Liberté, Égalité, Santé: The Evolution of Medicine in Revolution-Era France"



YHC 2019 Winners: Roni Heyman, Isabel Lickey, Jasmine Yu, Isabelle Paylor and Madeline Adriance

Second Place:

Isabelle Paylor, Clackamas HS | "Searching for Medieval Lesbianism and 'Lesbianistic Intimacy' within Asexual Christian Religious Orders of the Middle Ages: G. Unice sue rose and C. Super mel et favum dulciori"

First Place:

Madeleine Adriance, St. Mary's Academy | "'I Should Like to Say a Word or Two About Your Empire': Victor Hugo le Grand, Napoléon III le Petit, and the Historiographical Battlefield of the French Second Empire"



3rd Place winner, Isabel Lickey and Don Gavitte, History teacher at Grant High School

The lunch program includes a short talk by an historian, and the presentation of the awards. Winners are announced at the end of the day and are awarded with Powell's gift cards, provided by the **Friends of History**.

Presenting students are invited to submit their work to PSU's online repository of scholarly works, **PDXScholar**. A **full program with the schedule and abstracts** from this year's conference is available on the site. There is also some fascinating information about PDXScholar's **Young Historians' Conference papers'** and **readership information**, including the number of downloads as well as the countries and institutions who searched and accessed the papers.

The **Young Historians Conference** is a pivotal experience for our students and is possible because of an amazing collaboration among History faculty and grad students, high school instructors, PSU Librarians, the PSU Writing Center, the **Friends of History**, and the **Challenge Program staff**. It provides a powerful and authentic experience for young History scholars in our high schools—celebrating their scholarship and providing a professional forum for dialog and feedback. Former students report that the **Challenge Program** was excellent preparation for their college courses.

Phi Alpha Theta 2019 Northwest Regional Conference



Phi Alpha Theta members at the Red Hill Pillars on Idaho State University campus

On April 12-13, 2019, six Portland State history students participated in the Phi Alpha Theta Northwest Regional Conference in Pocatello, Idaho, of whom five presented original research papers. Their trip was made possible by grants from PSU Student Activities and Leadership Programs (SALP) and the Friends of History.

The participants and their paper titles are (from left to right):

Tracy Alan (undergraduate), “Ritual Gift Giving in Archaic Greek Pederastic Courtship;”
Breanne A. Johnson (undergraduate and president of Phi Alpha Theta);
Graham R. Abney (undergraduate), “Prester John, Pelagius of Albano, and the Disastrous Conclusion to the Fifth Crusade in 1221;”

Sarah L. Alderson (graduate), “The Anarchy of Eleventh-Century England and Geoffrey of Monmouth’s Cautionary Tale of King Lear;”

Darren L. Letendre (undergraduate), “From the Desert to the Monastery: The Domestication of the Christian Ascetic in Late Antiquity;”

Thomas M. Luckett (faculty advisor to Phi Alpha Theta); and

Jeffrey A. Arnsdorf (graduate), “Checking Under the Hood: Scholasticism, Music, and Johannes de Muris’s Notitia Artis Musicae (1319).”

Following the conference, **Tracy Alan** was awarded the Harry Fritz Prize for the Best Overall Paper, and **Graham Abney** was awarded the prize for the Best Undergraduate Paper.

History Students present at the PNLHA conference

Graduate students **Helen Ryan** and **Sam Mertz** and undergraduate **Elliot Vaughn** talked about their research in labor history to a standing-room only audience at the 51st annual conference of the **Pacific Northwest Labor History Association** held in Portland May 3-5. The **History Department** was a sponsor of the event.

Elliot Vaughn’s paper, “Rethinking the Ludlow Massacre: The Conditions of Weaponized Individualism” considered the company store and script as strategies to curtail collective actions among workers in Colorado. **Helen Ryan**’s paper, “Only One War: The IWW’s Interracial Organizing in California,” examined the Industrial Workers of the World’s organizing tactics with Mexican-American, Japanese, and Chinese immigrants, and Native American and African American workers in the fields of California in the same period. **Sam Mertz** drew from his M.A. thesis with “Father Thomas Tobin and Catholic Social Teachings in Portland, Oregon” in which he traced the resolution of labor conflicts during WWII and its aftermath. Mertz plans to defend his thesis at the end of the summer.



Helen Ryan, Sam Mertz, and Elliot Vaughn

History Students and Faculty at the WAWH History Conference

“Attending a professional history conference is a great opportunity for students to meet distinguished scholars, to discuss new research, and to see that historians have fun,” said Dr. **Brenda Frink**, the associate editor of *Pacific Historical Review* (PHR). This April, eleven Portland State students—along with one recent undergraduate—attended the **Western Association of Women Historians (WAWH)** conference, held in downtown Portland. Celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year, **WAWH** is the oldest and largest regional association devoted to the interests of women historians.

PSU history graduate students **Katherine Bush** and **Eden Redmond** won a prize for the best poster presentation for their work, “Punching In, Punching Up: The Subversive Spectacle of 1980s Women’s Workplace Comedies.” Graduate student **Johanna Murphy** presented a paper on settlement houses and parish institutions in Chicago, and Dr. Frink spoke about the history of school fire drills, bomb drills, and lockdowns. History professors **Derrais Carter** and **Patricia Schechter** each served as a commentator for a research panel.

The conference local arrangements committee—Frink (chair), PHR honors fellow **Rachel Done**, and PSU history alum **Madelyn Miller** (B.A. ’18)—supervised the conference registration desk, staffed by history students **Sarah Alderson**, **Katherine Bush**, **Emile Nelson**, and **Helen Ryan**. Nelson also interviewed senior scholars from **WAWH** for the history department’s “Beyond Footnotes” radio show and podcast. Under the auspices of Professor **Katy Barber**, public history students **Katherine Bush**, **Carolee Harrison**, **Jake Hutchins**, **Emily Medica**, and **Liza Schade** collected oral histories of **WAWH** members, which will be archived in honor of the organization’s 50-year anniversary.



Katie Bush and Eden Redmond

Get it on Paper: 20 Years of Street Roots Exhibit



Tanner Tombleson, Patricia Schechter, and Meg Suhosky at the “Get it on Paper: 20 Years of Street Roots” exhibit opening reception on March 10th

A collaboration between the department’s Public History students and the organization **Street Roots** came to an exciting apex this spring, as the partnership held an exhibit opening showcasing the twentieth anniversary of the newspaper at Multnomah Central Library’s Collins Gallery. History students **Tanner Tombleson** and **Meg Suhosky** have been working alongside **Patricia Schechter** to assist **Street Roots** in their archives to build a searchable, digital newspaper index unique to the organization’s needs. To mark the celebration of their twentieth anniversary, an exhibit was also prepared which highlighted the challenges, successes, and vibrant personalities that keep the mission of **Street Roots** ignited. The exhibit, titled “Get It on Paper: 20 Years of Street Roots,” was on display at the Multnomah County Central Library March 9th through May 5th, 2019.

Moving forward, the collaboration hopes to formulate a series of programming that celebrates and promotes visibility around the organization and its writers, which will include poetry pop-ups and potentially a mobile exhibit. You can also read a description of the exhibit from **Street Roots** Executive Director, **Kaia Sand**, “Decades of Street Roots Advocacy Resonate in Exhibit,” from their April 12th issue.

David A. Horowitz Honored for 50 Years of Service

by David Johnson



David A. Horowitz presented with 50 Years Length of Service Award

On August 5th, the History Department will celebrate Professor **David A. Horowitz**'s fiftieth year as a member of the Portland State University faculty. In the fall of 1968—a year that shook American culture like an earthquake—David arrived at the Park Blocks as a newly appointed instructor in American Cultural History.

Just months before David joined the PSU faculty, the Tet Offensive in Vietnam convinced many Americans that the war was a hopeless, deadly quagmire; student demonstrations and pitched battles with police proliferated across the U.S.; the assassination of Martin Luther King, closely followed by that of Robert Kennedy, cast a pall over the nation, state, and campus.

During David's first term here, violent confrontations between protestors and National Guardsmen at the Chicago Democratic National Convention and the ensuing, fraught election between Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey contributed to a sense of cultural crisis—a sense that would only grow in the following years.

Starting out at this signal moment in American cultural history, and continuing for the next fifty years, David has been a key campus interpreter of—and participant in—the conflicts of American culture, including his role in the 1970 PSU student strike. Thousands of PSU undergraduates have developed their understanding of the nation through his vivid, deeply researched lectures on the history of American popular and political culture. Hundreds of M.A. students' theses bear the mark of close attention to clear writing and reasoning. In the pages of the *Vanguard* and through the local media, David has likewise helped and challenged members of the PSU and broader community to better understand the public issues that wrack the nation.



David A. Horowitz in the 70s

Among professional historians, David is recognized as a leading scholar of American cultural history. In more than ten books—monographs and texts, a memoir, and a family history—he has charted the crooked paths of American culture from the seventeenth century to the present. His historical voice is also present in dozens of scholarly articles, conference papers, and public commentaries that he has published over the past half-century.

For fifty years and counting, **David Horowitz** has been a luminous citizen of PSU and the history department.



Professor Horowitz's wife, Gloria E. Myers, David A. Horowitz, Tom Lockett, and Desmond Cheung at the Length of Service award ceremony, March 5th

Marc Rodriguez delivers OAH Distinguished Lecture

On April 4, 2019, Professor **Marc Rodriguez** delivered a lecture at the Boise State University College of Social Science and Public Affairs Fettuccine Forum. Rodriguez' talk, "Rethinking the Chicano Movement: Mexican Americans, Latinos, and the Meaning of Citizenship," explored the history of Mexican American/Chicano civil rights activism in the United States. With an emphasis on the meaning of citizenship within the context of a diverse nation, Rodriguez discussed the Chicano Movement and its place as a national phenomenon that ranks as one of the most important social movements of the post-World War II era. It concluded with a discussion of the current state of immigration. As an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer, Rodriguez donated his honorarium to support the OAH.

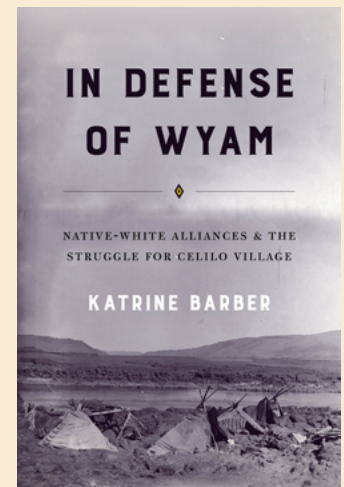


Marc Rodriguez

Katy Barber is Finalist for 2019 Oregon Book Award

Katy Barber's book, *In Defense of Wyam: Indigenous-White Alliances and the Struggle for Celilo Village* (University of Washington Press, 2018), was a finalist for the Frances Fuller Victor Award for General Nonfiction in the 2019 Oregon Book Awards. "In the year following publication, I've had the privilege to speak before public and university audiences in Seattle, Hood River, Vancouver, Oregon City, and just down the street at the Oregon Historical Society and was thrilled that it was a finalist," Barber says.

Oregon Book Award judge, Christine Heyrman writes, "With this book Katrine Barber returns to the mid-Columbia River region to tell her readers another richly nuanced story. Unfolding at the intersection of gender, race, and environmentalism, *In Defense of Wyam* reveals the ways in which unlikely alliances forged formidable results in this embattled region. Meticulous in its research, unsparing in its analysis, Barber's work is required reading for all students of the Pacific Northwest's history."



Laura Robson on The Ottoman History Podcast



Laura Robson

Laura Robson recently spoke about her research for the book *States of Separation: Transfer, Partition, and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, which studied how imperial rule under the mandate system in Iraq, Palestine, and Syria shaped communal definition and relations.

The conversation focused on the ways in which the states of the period sought to manage and move minority populations, including a scheme to resettle Iraq's Assyrians in South America. [Read more about the episode](#) and [download the episode](#) or [stream it on Soundcloud](#).

Meet Professor John Ott, Chair-Elect



John Ott

John Ott is a Professor of Medieval European history at Portland State, where he has taught since fall term 1999. The son of an army officer father and professional musician mother, he was born at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and lived with his family on army bases in communities ranging from Carlisle, PA, to Huntsville, AL, and Würzburg Germany. After attending three different high schools he elected to attend university close to home (at that time Puyallup, WA), enrolling in the Honors Program at the University of Puget Sound.

It was there, in the spring semester of his freshman year, that lightning struck. He enrolled in an upper-division course on medieval European history, and soon thereafter dropped out of the pre-law society and vowed to take as many courses in pre-modern history and English as he could. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa in

1991 with Honors in History and a Minor in French. Determined to pursue graduate study in medieval history, he applied to a range of prestigious doctoral programs across the U.S.—and was summarily rejected by all of them.

This disappointment, great though it was, offered him the exceptional opportunity to work as a public historian, which he did in the employ of the City of Tacoma's Department of Public Utilities. Over the next 18 months, he researched and wrote the centennial history (1893-1993) of the City's Water Department and its 'Beltline' Railway, becoming in the process better informed about watersheds, reservoir construction, cholera, and Tacoma's industrial tidal flats than he had previously dreamed possible. When he reapplied to doctoral programs the following year, he was offered and enthusiastically accepted a position in Stanford University's Department of History.

There, John studied medieval English and French history with Gavin Langmuir and Philippe Buc; Brad S. Gregory also supervised his dissertation, along with Laura Ackerman Smoller. Hired by PSU in spring 1999, he filed his dissertation in late August and moved to Portland a week later. Three weeks after that, he was teaching his first classes.

At Portland State, John offers survey classes covering late Roman through Reformation-era history; seminars in fields such as medieval Iberia, the medieval church and reform, and lords and lordship in western Europe; and advanced topics courses on holy war in Christian and Muslim tradition, saints and sainthood in medieval Europe, and the medieval city. He also coordinates the Minor in Medieval Studies. In September 2019, he will become department Chair.

John's research and publication focus on the medieval secular clergy in the period from c. 1000-1200, especially on northern France and the Low Countries, on which he has authored a dozen or so articles touching on canon law, episcopal authority and representation, and episcopal hagiography. His monograph, *Bishops, Authority and Community in Northwestern Europe, c. 1050-1150*, was published with Cambridge University Press in 2015. He has co-edited separate volumes on the medieval bishop (*The Bishop Reformed: Studies of Episcopal Power and Culture in the Central Middle Ages*, with Anna Trumbore Jones [2007]), the medieval clergy and warfare (*Between Sword and Prayer: Warfare and Medieval Clergy in Cultural Perspective*, with Radoslaw Kotecki and Jacek Maciejewski [2017]), and episcopal saints (*Saintly Bishops and Bishops' Saints, with Trpimir Vedris* [2012]). With a colleague, he is currently finishing up work on an annotated source reader, consisting of sources in English translation, on the medieval clergy. His current research project focuses on the production of canon law in and around Reims, France, and its cathedral community in the late eleventh century. A side project, on episcopal epitaphs and funerary commemoration, is also in progress.

His first professional article, published in 2000, was awarded the Van Courtlandt Elliott Prize for best first article in Medieval Studies by the Medieval Academy of America.

John's research has been supported three times (in 2002, 2010, and 2019) by grants from the National Endowment of the Humanities, and he has been a past recipient of a Mellon Research Fellowship for work in the Vatican Film Library at St Louis University, as well as a Mellon Post-doctoral Fellowship (2004-5) at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto. He is the founder and past President of Episcopus: Society for the Study of Bishops and the Secular Clergy in the Middle Ages (2012-2015), and is the current President of the Medieval Association of the Pacific (2018-2020).

He has received the John Elliot Allen Outstanding Teacher in History award four times, and has advised more than thirty MA and Bachelor's theses in medieval history at Portland State.

John is married and has two daughters. He lives in Portland, and is a devoted fan of the Portland Timbers, Seattle Seahawks, and Seattle Mariners. In his free time he plays soccer, tries to keep the garden alive, and has been known to appear onstage and behind the scenes in productions of the Classical Ballet Academy.

Meet Professor Brian Turner, Graduate Studies Coordinator

Brian Turner joined the faculty of PSU in 2011 with a specialty in Roman history. Born and raised in Canada, he completed his BA (Honours) in the Department of Classics at Queen's University, in Kingston, Ontario. He was the recipient of the 2003 Queen's Classics Medal for academic excellence. Brian remained at Queen's to complete his MA in Classics. Like Portland State, Queen's offered a terminal MA program, so he left Canada to pursue his PhD in Ancient History at the [University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill](#) with Prof. Richard J. A. Talbert. His studies there focused on Roman, Greek, and Military History.

Since arriving at PSU, Brian has taught surveys in Roman and Greek, and World history, seminars on the Roman Republic and Empire, topics courses on Roman imperialism, the emperor Augustus, and ancient geography and worldview. He also regularly teaches a course on the global history of warfare. He has directed several graduate and undergraduate theses on a variety of topics. He was also the History Department's 2014 recipient of the John Eliot Allen Outstanding Teaching Award. At the end of 2018, Brian became the History Department's Graduate Studies Coordinator.

Brian's scholarship has focused on ancient military history and the history of geography, cartography, and worldview in antiquity. With Jessica H. Clark (Florida State University), he co-edited *Brill's Companion to Military Defeats in Ancient Mediterranean Society* (2018). His own contribution to the volume examines how the Julio-Claudian emperors responded to war losses suffered during their dynasty. He has also published contributions in various other edited volumes, including a study of the Roman soldier-turned-historian Velleius Paterculus's geography, and a reinterpretation of the so-called Batavian revolt as a Rhenish insurgency. His first article, "War Losses and Worldview: Re-Viewing the Roman Funerary Altar at Adamclisi," published after an adventurous excursion through Romania and Bulgaria, appeared in the *American Journal of Philology* (2013). Brian is a former director of the [Ancient World Mapping Center](#) and remains an Associate Editor of *Pleiades*, an online gazetteer of the ancient world. He is currently working on a collaborative translation of the geographic books of Pliny the Elder's *Natural History*.



Brian Turner

Dr. Jennifer Kerns to receive the Georgina M. Smith Award



Jennifer Kerns

Dr. **Jennifer Kerns**, PSU AAUP Vice President of Membership & Organizing, will receive the Georgina M. Smith Award at the **2019 AAUP Annual Conference in Washington DC** this June. The Smith Award recognizes exceptional leadership in work advancing the status of academic women and will be presented to both Jennifer and Dr. Christine Blasey Ford.

Jennifer states, “I am very proud to be an active leader in our PSU campus chapter of the AAUP. One of the reasons I joined our union was that leaders before me prioritized equity and inclusion in their work at the bargaining table and in outreach to members of our community. They demonstrated to me that our union could be a mechanism to advance the professional and economic interests of many of our faculty, including non-tenure track faculty and academic professional faculty, a majority of whom are women.

Over the past two years in my role as VP for Membership and Organizing, I have been doing significant outreach to academic workers here on campus who are women, persons of color, and those who identify as LGBTQ in order to see how we can best work with them to advance their careers and make this a campus that welcomes and works for as many folks as possible.

Even though this work has been central to my mission with **PSU AAUP**, I was deeply humbled when my colleague **Jennifer Ruth** (Film Studies) nominated me for this award. I am also happy to say that our current **PSU AAUP** leadership continues to value the diverse experiences and expertise of academic workers across campus. I am happy to be a member of this team and it is with them that I share this award.”

Ken Ruoff interviewed on NHK World

Professor **Ken Ruoff** visited Tokyo as a studio analyst for **NHK World’s** coverage of the abdication of Japan’s Emperor Akihito and the enthronement of Emperor Naruhito, April 30–May 1.

“It turns out that TV news is very much like the movies—it is a high pressure environment with tight deadlines,” Ruoff explains; “on the morning of the enthronement, thirty minutes before we went live to cover the enthronement ceremony, we

were done with all rehearsals and it was a rare interval for me just to chat with a few NHK staffers. But then a different, young NHK staff member came running through the huge newsroom like a bat out of hell to deliver the text of Emperor Naruhito’s first remarks to me.”



Ken Ruoff with NHK World Staff



As a historian and specialist in Imperial Japan, Ruoff has been sought out to provide commentary on the abdication, enthronement, and the **naming of the next Imperial Era** by various media outlets including the *New York Times*, *BBC News*, *Reuters*, the *Japan Times*, and the *Los Angeles Times*. Ruoff’s forthcoming book, *Japan’s Imperial House in the Postwar Era, 1945-2019* is due

out in the fall from Harvard University Press.

Farewell to Desmond Cheung by Joe Bohling



Desmond Cheung in his office

At the end of this academic year, **Desmond Cheung** will leave his position at Portland State University to return to his family in England. For much of his life and academic career, Desmond has been a traveler. Born of Chinese immigrants to England, he took an undergraduate degree from Cambridge and pursued graduate studies in Canada before taking up the post of teaching early modern Chinese history at PSU. In each of these places, Desmond has put down deep roots, striking up lasting friendships, and eating his way through the local cuisine. Ever the diligent record keeper, Desmond even keeps track of every restaurant where he has eaten in Portland, a list that was at several hundred and counting the last time that I checked. That would surely be an interesting document for future historians of Portland's food scene to uncover!

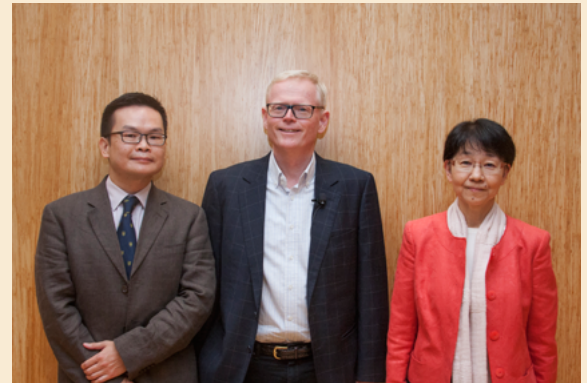
Desmond's globetrotting has instilled in him a strong sense of place, which is reflected not only in the care and attention that he devotes to friendship, but also in his range of scholarly interests spanning world history to Chinese temples and shrines. Desmond amassed numerous accomplishments in his six years at PSU, enough that he would have surely received tenure. He helped promote Chinese culture and history at a time when it is imperative that the American public has an appreciation of them.

Beyond his scholarly work, Desmond has played a vital role in strengthening the history department's social fabric, and contributed to the vibrant network of international scholars at PSU. Desmond



Desmond on one of his eating adventures

seems to manage effortlessly the tensest moments of the academic schedule, smiling through it all. We will sorely miss running into him in the hallways, classrooms, and offices. His moral and intellectual support and constant good spirits set a high bar for collegiality. Our campus and our department will certainly be lesser without him.



Desmond Cheung, speaker Ian Johnson, and Suwako Watanabe at the October 2018 lecture "China: Religion and the Rise of a New Superpower"

Desmond's departure will be bittersweet for us, and we know that it will be for him too. The work-life balance is especially tricky for academics; few of us are lucky enough to end up in a place where we can achieve this balance, and many more of us must make sacrifices to pursue one or the other. We are happy to support Desmond's homecoming to England, and know that he will see continued success on his personal and professional path and that he will eat well wherever his travels take him next.

On a personal note, I have been grateful for Desmond's company over the years, both at the seminar table and at the dining table. He has been a model colleague and friend. I will miss having him down the hall.

Eavesdropping on David Johnson by Catherine McNeur



David Johnson

For the last six years, my office has sat across the hall from **David Johnson**'s in the History Department suite. While this situation offered some minor down sides (I'll get to those later), it also offered me a window into what it means to be a great mentor and advisor. David's office hours were always packed with both graduate students and undergraduates, those writing theses and those looking to get feedback on a potential paper topic. The walls in Cramer Hall are thin and even if I didn't want to listen in on his office hours, I didn't really have a choice in the matter.

As soon as I began to listen passively in on his meetings with students, though, I knew I had a lot to gain from them. While I graded papers, I

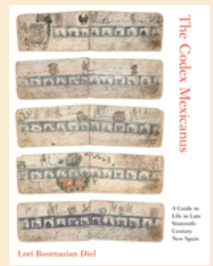
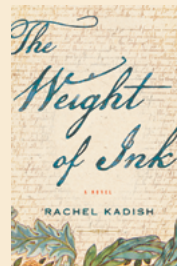
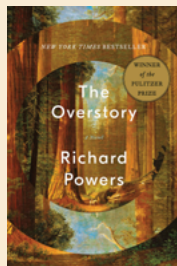
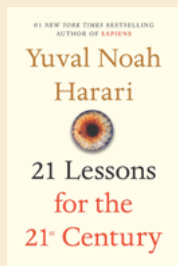
would hear him asking students about their lives as well as their studies, really wanting to know them and their stories—where they came from, what they've been doing, where they hope to go, and how he could help get them there. This wasn't just empty small talk or idle chit chat; it was like the best kind of interview. And once they arrived at the reason for their meeting—the research paper, the midterm grade, whatever—the student knew that they were being taken seriously, that he had recognized their potential, and that he respected them. That level of attention is perhaps the purest kind of generosity.

Like students, his colleagues also popped their heads into his office to chat about families, what they were researching, classes, or developments at the university. And again, he always made everyone feel valued. I know, because I have personally benefited from this. While he may mischievously leave his light on overnight to worry his colleagues who wonder if he's never left, while he keeps containers of open fast food sauce on his desk in some sort of weird, multi-year science experiment, and while he may mutter loudly at his computer in moments of frustration, I'm certainly going to miss having **David Johnson** in Cramer Hall after he retires. Still, long after he packs away the last book and microfilm roll, I will never forget the lesson he gave me in the joy of listening intently to everyone's story.

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David A. Johnson is retiring after forty years as a Professor of History at PSU. He received his BA in Comparative Culture from the University of California, Irvine (1972) and his PhD in American Studies from the University of Pennsylvania (1977). His first book, *Founding the Far West: California, Oregon, Nevada, 1840-1890* (1992), received the 1992 Best Book Award from the Pacific Coast Branch, American Historical Association, and was finalist for the Victor Prize for Prose Non-Fiction from the Oregon Institute for Literary Arts.

At Portland State University, Johnson has received the Burlington Northern Award for excellence in teaching and scholarship (1992), the John Eliot Allen Teaching Award three times (2000, 2005, and 2009), and the Branford Price Millar Award for outstanding scholarship and service (2004). Johnson served as Chair of the Department from 1993-1996 and as the Managing Editor of the *Pacific Historical Review* from 1996-2014. He is currently working on a print and digital study of the history of lynching in California.



We asked our faculty to recommend one book that they thought readers might enjoy from their historical field (first listed) and one that they have recently read “just for pleasure” (second). All books purchased with the Amazon Affiliate links below help support the Friends of History and History Department projects.

- George Armantrout** *1177 B.C.: The Year Civilization Collapsed* | Eric H. Kline
Following the Equator | Mark Twain
- Katy Barber** *Settlers as Conquerors: Free Land Policy in Antebellum America* | Julius Wilm
Red Clocks | Leni Zumas
- Richard Beyler** *Five Days in August: How World War II Became a Nuclear War* | Michael Gordin
Night Soldiers | Alan Furst
- David Peterson Del Mar** *21 Lessons for the 21st Century* | Yuval Noah Harari
Birds of Paradise Lost | Andrew Lam
- Tim Garrison** *Interrupted Odyssey: Ulysses S. Grant and the American Indian* | Mary Stockwell
Testimony | Robbie Robertson
- David A. Horowitz** *The Lessons of Tragedy: Statecraft and World Order* | Hal Brands and Charles Edel
The History of the Decline and Fall of America: A Semi-Fictional Satire | Scott Erickson
- Jennifer Kerns** *The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War* | Joanne B. Freeman
The Great Believers | Rebecca Makkai
- Rodney Koeneke** *The Chaos of Empire: The British Raj and the Conquest of India* | Jon Wilson
Blake: A Biography | Peter Ackroyd
- Tom Luckett** *Extremism* | J. M. Berger
Da Happie Laand | Robert Alan Jamieson
- Catherine McNeur** *Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave* | Erica Armstrong Dunbar
The Overstory: A Novel | Richard Powers
- Natan Meir** *Bad Rabbi: And Other Strange but True Stories from the Yiddish Press* | Eddy Portnoy
The Weight of Ink | Rachel Kadish
- John Ott** *Kingdoms of Faith: A New History of Islamic Spain* | Brian A. Catlos
The Parable of the Sower | Octavia E. Butler
- Patricia Schechter** *The Codex Mexicanus: A Guide to Life in Late Sixteenth-Century New Spain* | Lori Boornazian Diel
The Neapolitan Novels | Elena Ferrante

18 PHOTOS FROM RECENT EVENTS



Students in John Ott's medieval saints and sainthood course inspect a late medieval book of hours in the Mt. Angel Abbey rare book room



English Professor Emeritus Nathan Cogan introduces Daniel Ziblatt, author of "How Democracies Die" at the Sara Glasgow Cogan Memorial Lecture on February 21st



Natalia Molina lectures on "How Race Is Made in America: Immigration, Citizenship, and the Historical Power of Racial Scripts" on May 14th



Co-authors Laura Robson and Arie M. Dubnov at "Partition as a Traveling Theory? A Transnational Perspective on the Partition of Palestine, 1937-1947"

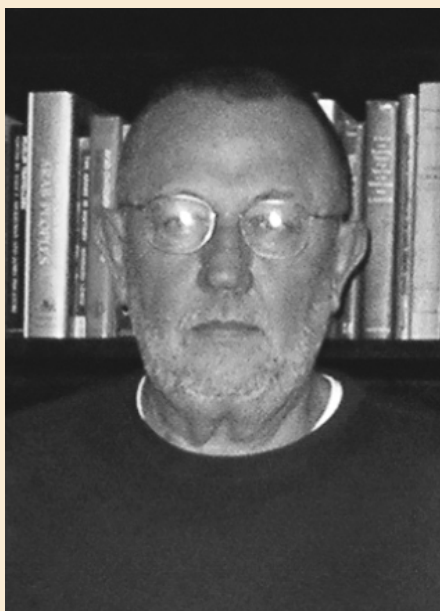


History Colloquium-Workshop with Nicolas Paul on March 1st



"Give Us The Ballot: A Panel on the History of Voter Suppression and the Importance of Fighting for Voter Access" presented by Phi Alpha Theta

In Memoriam: Thomas T. Allsen, 1940-2019 by Peter Golden



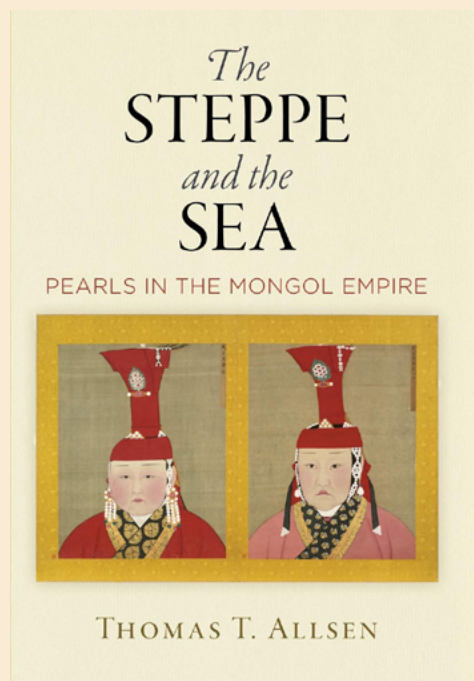
Thomas T. Allsen

Thomas T. Allsen (1940-2019) was one of the outstanding scholars of the history and culture of Medieval Eurasia and of the Mongol Empire in particular. His books and articles are cited in virtually every work that deals with the peoples of that time and place. Allsen did much to reorient “Mongol Imperial Studies” from a largely political narrative to one that encompassed aspects of ideological, commercial, and material culture and the transfer of cultures across Eurasia. His excellent knowledge of Chinese, Persian, Arabic, Russian and Western European languages; his thorough command of the sources dealing with the peoples of Eurasia; and his jargon-free style of exposition made his work essential reading for scholars in the field, and those working in World history.

Allsen received a B.A. in History from Portland State University in 1962, an M.A. in Russian Studies from the University of Washington in 1964, an M.L.S. in Librarianship in 1969 from the University of Oregon, and his PhD in 1979 from the University of Minnesota. After briefly teaching at Western Kentucky University (1979-1980), he spent the remainder of his teaching career (1980-2002) in the History Department of Trenton State College, now The College of New Jersey, where he attained the rank of Professor. Allsen’s work was recognized worldwide. He won numerous awards, including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities (1998-1999, 2003-2004) and from the Guggenheim Foundation (2002-2003) in the field of East Asian Studies.

These awards invariably resulted in outstanding, path-breaking books: *Mongol Imperialism: The Policies of the Grand Qan Möngke in China, Russia and the Islamic Lands, 1251-1259* (1987); *Commodity and Exchange in the Mongol Empire: A Cultural History of Islamic Textiles* (1997); *Culture and Conquest in Mongol Eurasia* (2001); *The Royal Hunt in Eurasian History* (2006); and *The Steppe and the Sea: Pearls in the Mongol Empire* (April, 2019).

He was the author of numerous articles and book chapters, including “The Rise of the Mongolian Empire and Mongolian Rule in North China” in *The Cambridge History of China, vol. 6., Alien Regimes and Border States*. His studies “Two Cultural Brokers of Medieval Eurasia: Bolad Aqa and Marco Polo” in *Nomadic Diplomacy, Destruction and Religion from the Pacific to the Adriatic* and “Technician Transfers in the Mongolian Empire,” *The Central Eurasian Studies Lectures*, were landmarks in the field. For many years he was one of the editors of *Archivum Eurasiae Medii Aevi* (1986-2013). A Festschrift in his honor was published in that journal (2014-2015), marking his 75th birthday. His impact on Central Eurasian Studies will continue for many years to come.



Giving to the Department of History

If you are interested in contributing to the History Department, note that you can provide support to a specific fund. Simply **note on your contribution** where you would like your money to go. If you would like to discuss any of the particular funds, please email **Tim Garrison** at timgarrison@pdx.edu or phone him at (503) 725-3978.

| Fund | Purpose |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| History Department | Supports the general expenses of the History Department, particularly faculty and student research |
| <i>Pacific Historical Review</i> | Funds travel, office expenses, research support, and professional development |
| History Graduate Scholarship Fund | Funds scholarships for History students |
| Faculty Awards for History Research | Provides a cash award for faculty who publish books |
| Bernard Burke Scholarship | Provides scholarships for undergraduate students in History |
| Anne Myers Scholarship | Provides scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students in History |
| Caroline P. Stoel Fellowship | Provides fellowships for graduate students at the <i>Pacific Historical Review</i> |
| Lauren Banasky Award | Funds graduate research expenses for students interested in European or women's history |
| Joel Palmer Awards | Provides stipends for students working on the <i>Oregon Encyclopedia</i> |
| E. Ann Fulton Scholarship | Provides grants, scholarships, and awards for History students |
| Stephanie K. Oliver Award | Provides support for graduate students nearing the completion of their degree |
| Friends of History Operations | Supports lectures and other events sponsored by the Friends of History, faculty research, and student awards and scholarships |
| Friends of History Endowment | Provides funding to bring top historians to lecture at PSU |
| Gordon B. Dodds Fellowship | Funds fellowships for students in History |

FRIENDS of HISTORY

The Friends of History is a community-based organization affiliated with the Portland State University Department of History that is committed to supporting the teaching and study of history

within the larger Portland area. Thanks to the generous support of our members, we are able to provide lectures, discussion groups, and other programming that speaks to a variety of scholarly interests, as well as scholarships and grants to further important research in history by Portland State University students and faculty members.

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