Abraham Lincoln and the West

Tuesday **October 6th** | **6:00pm** ::: Lincoln Recital Hall (LH) RM 75

Lecture is **FREE** and open to the public

Abraham Lincoln was a product of the American West. He was born in 1809 in Kentucky, almost as far west as one could go and still be within one of the United States. He grew up in the “Old Northwest” states of Indiana and Illinois and represented the interests of that region in the Illinois legislature and in Congress. The main political issue in his rise to leadership of the Republican Party and his presidential candidacy was the exclusion of slavery from the western territories.

As president and commander-in-chief during the Civil War, much of his attention was focused on what was described as the war’s western theater. He also faced a major conflict growing out of the Sioux uprising in Minnesota during the war, and after the war he intended to take a trip to the Pacific Coast, a region of much interest to him but which he had never seen. Regrettably, he did not live to make that trip.

**About James McPherson**

James McPherson is an American Civil War historian, and the George Henry Davis ’86 Professor Emeritus of United States history at Princeton University. He received the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for *Battle Cry of Freedom: The Civil War Era*. McPherson served as the president of the American Historical Association in 2003, and is a member of the editorial board of *Encyclopædia Britannica*. His most recent book, *The War That Forged a Nation: Why the Civil War Still Matters*, was released in March 2015.

“Abraham Lincoln towers over *The War That Forged a Nation,* as he towered over his own era. Mr. McPherson is especially good—and consistently fascinating—on how the president’s thinking, both strategic and moral, evolved during the war, as he moved from using the emancipation of the slaves as one more weapon against the South to seeing it as the mainspring that drove the cause he led. Lincoln knew that American freedom was always imperfect, a work continuously in progress.”

Happy New Year!

Well, it might not be a new calendar year or a new fiscal year, but it is a new ACADEMIC year for our faculty and students. As you will see from this newsletter, our department had a very productive 2014-2015. And, as we begin the new academic year, I can already foresee that our faculty and our students will continue to add to the department’s considerable list of achievements.

In this newsletter, we focus on two special groups: our alumni and our emeriti faculty. Our retired faculty are important to us, for they built this department. I want to make sure we stay in touch with them and honor their service to the department and our students. In this issue, we asked them to simply tell us “what you’ve been up to lately.” You will find that they answered in their own characteristic way.

We are also initiating a special section that examines the careers of our alumni. In our Historical Futures segment, you will find career profiles of several of our graduates. Some of them told us how specific professors among our faculty impacted their professional path. I hope you will read these vignettes; and, if you are an alumnus of our graduate or undergraduate programs, I implore you to drop me a note so we can add your biography to our list of profiles. We will include your story in our website and publish it in future newsletters.

Finally, I want to tell you briefly about our Honors in History Degree Option. In the photo above, you will find your devoted servant posing with Alexander Ritter, one of our recent Honors students. Students accepted into the program (admission requires an overall GPA of 3.25 and a GPA of 3.5 in their History courses) work for a year under the supervision of two History faculty and produce a thesis on a topic of their choice. The Honors option requires students to go above and beyond the normal major requirements. Students typically spend two terms identifying a subject, completing background reading, and conducting primary source research. The next two terms they produce a draft of the thesis, proceed through the revision process, and then offer a formal presentation of their work to the faculty and their student colleagues. The Honors track is a wonderful program for our students because it provides them with an opportunity to pursue in-depth historical research under the close supervision of experienced scholars.

Alex’s thesis, by the way, was titled “Continuity vs. Discontinuity: The Issue of Race and Forced Labor After Emancipation in the American South.” He argued that the present high incarceration rates in the South could be found in the history of the region: from the legacy of slavery and the institutionalized discrimination of the Jim Crow era. I enjoyed watching Alex develop the subject, conduct the primary source research, and then produce an innovative argument in a compelling narrative style. Working with students such as Alex always reminds me of why I got into this profession in the first place.

Have a wonderful Fall!

Tim Garrison, History Department Chair
Dr. Joji Kappes Presents Gift to Professor Desmond Cheung

Stones have been collected and appreciated throughout history. Admired for their stability and longevity, stones have been used in gardens and architecture for their decorative form and function.

On May 18, Dr. Joji Kappes, a physician and member of the Friends of History, surprised Professor Desmond Cheung by presenting him, on behalf of all of the senior adult learners who had audited and enjoyed his courses, with a Chinese Scholar’s Stone and stand.

Dr. Kappes has audited several of Professor Cheung’s courses through the Senior Adult Learning program. He presented the stone and its stand, known in Japanese as a suiseki and daiza, to inspire Professor Cheung as he continued his intellectual pursuits at Portland State University.

Suiseki (sui = water and seki = stone) is the Japanese art of stone appreciation. Smaller than garden rocks or large scale man-made forms, suiseki are selected for their refined qualities. They are naturally carved stones often found in rivers, streams, or along ocean shorelines and on windblown deserts—anywhere time and the elements have formed and left them.

Chinese Scholar’s Stones influenced the development of suiseki after they were brought to Japan as gifts from the Chinese Imperial court. They are also known as “Viewing Stones.” The most popular suiseki are expressive shapes with colors and textures that resemble landscapes or objects in nature—a mountain, an island, a waterfall, or a human or animal figure.

Suiseki are often placed on delicate wooden stands or trays, respectively called daizas and dobons, carved specifically to accommodate the stone’s display as a miniature sculpture. The stones must be of natural origin and are not permitted to be reshaped with the exception of cutting the stones to have a flat base so they can be placed in harmony on a daiza or doban. Suiseki are used as objects of meditation, beauty, and spiritual contemplation. Like portable mountains to admire on a tabletop, suiseki suggest the immortality and timelessness of the natural world.

The scholar stone he presented to Professor Cheung was located and prepared with a fitted stand by one of Dr. Kappes’s friends who is a Japanese suiseki master. Tim Garrison, chair of the department, said that Dr. Kappes would have preferred to have presented Cheung with a Chinese Scholar’s rock (gōngshí), like those displayed in traditional Chinese gardens, which can be immense, but decided that it would not fit in the professor’s less than expansive office. Garrison added that he was sincerely thankful for Dr. Kappes’s gesture and for his support of Professor Cheung. “Desmond is one of several outstanding scholars we have hired in the last few years,” Garrison said, “and it is very gratifying to see that our students and our senior auditors are so impressed by the work of our junior colleagues.”
Commemorating Portland’s Bloody Wednesday
Longshore Workers, Historians, and the Community Remember
How Pier Park’s Trees Saved the Lives of Strikers from Police Bullets

PORTLAND — Pier Park in St. Johns is typically a destination for disc golfers on a sunny Saturday afternoon, but on July 11, seventy-five people turned out to the park for a guided historical walking tour commemorating Portland’s “Bloody Wednesday.” Eighty-one years ago on this day, Portland police fired upon unarmed strikers during the 1934 Maritime Strike, wounding four men, hitting several trees, and infuriating the general public.

The event was hosted by the Pacific Northwest Labor History Association (PNLHA) and received support from three International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) locals, Portland State University’s Department of History, Portland Jobs with Justice, and community groups of the St. Johns neighborhood. Portland State University master’s student Ryan Wisnor organized the event, which was based on his research on how the labor community credited the trees of Pier Park for shielding the workers during the shooting.

“Fortunately the trees saved them,” were the words chosen by 1934 strike organizer Matthew Meehan in an oral history conducted before his death in 1977. Current longshoreman Matt Tyson of ILWU Local 8 read a passage from Meehan’s history to an audience of union members, labor activists, and St. Johns residents at the scene of the shooting—the northern edge of Pier Park where Swift Boulevard once intersected with the railroad tracks.

Labor educator and historian Norm Diamond detailed for the crowd of current longshore workers how their rank-and-file predecessors shut down every West Coast port for 82 days during the ’34 strike. The union organized deep within the community, achieving public support from not only the wider labor movement and Communists but also farmers, students, small business owners, and the unemployed.

Wisnor detailed the hour-by-hour events of Bloody Wednesday, plus the two previous attempts by the Portland police to break the picket lines that kept Terminal No. 4 closed to replacement workers and cargo. On the morning of July 11, Chief of Police Burton K. Lawson ordered one hundred policemen aboard a train to fire upon the unarmed workers. The bullets battered several of the trees that workers and their families dove behind; longshoreman Elmus “Buster” Beatty nearly died from a gunshot wound to the jaw. The picket line held firm and the union won their demands later on July 31.

Portlander Marvin Ricks was regarded as the last surviving “’34 man” on the West Coast before his death in 2009. After reading from his oral history, retired Local 8 member Norm Parks emphasized to the crowd how Ricks and thousands of other longshore workers “put their lives on the line to give members of the ILWU what they have today.”
The strike’s complete victory not only improved the working conditions and lives of longshoremen, it inspired Portlanders, including Julia Ruuttila, to organize unions in other industries. Historian Sandy Polishuk published Ruuttila’s oral history and read an excerpt to a crowd while they viewing the park’s Douglas-Firs from a distance. Ruuttila (who became a labor, peace, and social justice activist for the rest of her life) recalled how Pier Park’s trees were “pockmarked” with bullets. “For years,” she wrote, “you could go out there and dig lead out of the bark of those trees.”

Speaking of the historic importance of Bloody Wednesday and the long memory of Pier Park’s trees, Wisnor reminded listeners that “the history, like those bullet holes, is just below the surface.” After the tour crossed a pedestrian bridge over the railroad into Chimney Park, Wisnor raised the topic of planning for a historical marker to commemorate Bloody Wednesday. He concluded by saying, “Just as the longshoremen claimed this space as theirs in 1934 and declared that nothing would get past, we should also consider claiming it for the community as Portland’s history.”

Watch a video of the event online.

The Pacific Northwest Labor History Association (PNLHA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1968. The PNLHA is dedicated to preserving the history and heritage of workers in the Pacific Northwest. Save the dates of May 20-22, 2016 for PNLHA’s Annual Conference, which will be held next year in Portland.
Sadie Adams

After teaching at West Sylvan Middle School for two years, Sadie Adams (B.S. 2003, M.A. 2012) has taken a job teaching Social Studies at Cleveland High School in Portland, OR. In addition to teaching, she will be presenting a paper drawn from her thesis, “‘We Were Privileged in Oregon…’: A Pragmatic Approach to Reproductive Politics,” at a symposium in November 2015. The paper will be published in the Oregon Historical Quarterly in 2016.

Terri Barnes

(M.A. 2004, Thesis: “A Nun’s Life: Barking Abbey in the Late Medieval and Early Modern Periods”) Terri is the chair of the History Department at Portland Community College’s Rock Creek Campus. She studied with Caroline Litzenberger (early modern England) and John Ott (medieval Europe).

June Melby Benowitz


In 2002, I joined the faculty at the University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee as an instructor. A revised version of my dissertation was also published that year—Days of Discontent: Right-Wing Women and American Politics, 1933-1945 (Northern Illinois University Press). I was put on the tenure track at USFSM in 2005, and received tenure in 2011. I have continued doing research and writing, with my latest monograph, Challenge and Change: Right-Wing Women, Grassroots Activism, and the Baby Boom Generation, scheduled for publication in November 2015 (University Press of Florida). I am also working on a revised and expanded two-volume second edition of the Encyclopedia of American Women and Religion.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time at PSU, working with some excellent professors. I especially appreciated the mentoring that I received from the late Gordon Dodds and from my thesis advisor, David Horowitz. By directing me to the Grace Wick manuscript collection at the Oregon Historical Society library, Professor Horowitz was the person who got me started on researching women of the far right almost 30 years ago.”

Eliza Canty-Jones

Eliza graduated in 2005 with a thesis titled “‘All Done as a Real Pacifist’: Manche Langley’s Recollections of Peace and Art in America’s Mid-Twentieth Century Far West.” She is currently the Editor of the Oregon Historical Quarterly and the Director of Community Engagement for the Oregon Historical Society. She joined the OHS staff in 2003 as a Rose Tucker Fellow.
Karen Christianson
Karen Christianson is the Associate Director of the Center for Renaissance Studies at the Newberry Library. Christianson is a medieval social historian, specializing in monasticism, gender roles, and the interaction of family and feudal ties in power relations, especially in twelfth- and thirteenth-century France. She is working on a monograph on the monastic order of Fontevraud. Christianson has taught medieval, early modern, and world history at the University of Iowa, Chicago State University, and DePaul University, and holds a Ph.D. in medieval history from the University of Iowa.

Scott Cohen
Scott reported: “I currently work as a transportation demand management specialist in the City of Portland Bureau of Transportation’s Active Transportation division. Many colleagues seem surprised when I tell them I studied history in college and graduate school. As a transportation planner at the Portland Bureau of Transportation, I develop educational, encouragement, and infrastructural programs that help more people choose walking, bicycling, and transit for getting around. What does my area of study (water policy in the American West) have to do with that?”

As Walter Sobchak from \textit{The Big Lebowski} might say, “Well, there isn’t a literal connection.” However, the skills I use every single day to tell compelling stories, to connect with the public, and perhaps, most important, to write successful grant applications, are a direct result of my time studying history.

What skills specifically? Conducting research seeking relevant information to support arguments. Allowing data to shape a story and not the other way around. Constructing a narrative—regardless of the medium—that draws the audience in. Understanding two or more sides of the same story to gain greater insight into an issue and help explain it to others. All of these skills I learned in my history studies.

Or think of it this way, ‘What other discipline requires telling a story that is factual, relevant, and compelling to the audience?’ In today’s world, telling a compelling story and crafting a narrative are absolutely essential for many careers. Marketing, law, data analysis, grant writing in nearly any discipline, and yes, even transportation planning, requires research, writing, and narrative development skills. In my career, the tools I developed as a historian helped separate me from others who did not have the same depth of research, writing, and analysis skills.”

Melinda Cohoon
Melinda is a graduate student at the University of Washington. She writes that, “During my undergraduate studies at Portland State, I had profound influence and guidance from professors in the Department of History who helped lead me to my matriculation at the University of Washington.

Currently, I am a graduate student in the International Studies department and plan to study the Modern Near East. The focus of my studies will be on the historical formation of Iraq during the 1920s and imperial oil ambitions.”
Meg Langford

Meg wrote: “I graduated summa cum laude in 2011 with a B.A. in History with departmental honors (Dr. Chia Yin Hsu was my honors thesis advisor). I also did post-baccalaureate study in public history with Dr. Patricia Schechter, with coursework and internship hours in PSU Library Special Collections. I am currently the Public Services Coordinator at OHSU’s Historical Collections and Archives, a full-time position that handles all research services, outreach, and exhibits for the department. Every day I get to work with historical materials and share them with students, researchers, and the OHSU and wider communities. It’s really my dream job!

I credit my Portland State University history degree with the advanced research and communication skills needed for my position. My history degree has provided me with a great framework for promoting the value and richness of public as well as academic history. I feel that I’ve benefitted enormously from taking advantage of all of the opportunities a history B.A. at PSU had to offer (Phi Alpha Theta, conference presentations, honors thesis, independent study)—I beat out candidates with M.A. degrees for my position!”

Mark Peterson

Mark wrote in from Minnesota: “I attended PSU starting in the fall of 1978 and joined a group of twelve students who were in a master’s program in history with an emphasis on museum administration. Courses were taught at PSU and at the Oregon Historical Society. Having made a decision to pursue a career in museum work, it was a very exciting time. I moved to Oregon from Minnesota for this program. After a year of classes we were sent out to do a nine month internship and our thesis. As luck would have it, I was hired to be the first “professional” museum director at the Aurora Colony Historical Society. I worked there as the director and only employee for almost four years while I finished my thesis on the pioneering preservation work of Dr. Burt Brown Barker.

In late 1982 I was hired as the Executive Director of the Winona County Historical Society in Winona, Minnesota. I have held this position for the past 33 years. My experiences in the museum field have been very rewarding. I still can’t wait to get to work every day. How many people can say that about their job? I have also served as the mayor of Winona (pop. 27,592) for the past two and a half years in addition to teaching a course every year at Winona State University titled “An Introduction to Historical Museums.” The course is designed to expose history majors to opportunities in history outside of teaching. It has been fun to see a number of students go on to work in museums and archives.”

Carlos R. Rivera

Carlos “retired” from Ohio State University (1993-2011) after a stroke. He worked in government and lectured in history during that time. He currently teaches one or two classes a year at Columbus State Community College. He completed his thesis under the late Bernard V. Burke and examined the USN/IJN from 1898 to 1921. Carlos states, “Burke was very instrumental in helping me with my work and helping me get to OSU for my Ph.D. I also want to say that Linda Walton was a great help as I continued with Japanese history, which I continued after I graduated from PSU.”
John Rosenberg

John asks: “What can you do with a Master’s degree in History? In my case, it was much more than I ever dreamed. I began working on my M.A. in History in 1989 when I was still serving as the Lutheran Campus Pastor at PSU. My main motivation was curiosity. I had emigrated to the Pacific Northwest from Wisconsin, and I wanted to learn more about my new home.

I was fortunate to develop lasting friendships with two excellent scholars and able mentors in Pacific Northwest history, Gordon B. Dodds and Craig Wollner. I discovered that the deeper into the subject I got, the more I wanted to know. My thesis topic was “The Angler as Environmentalist: Oregon Trout and the Fight to Save the Wild Salmon of the Columbia River.” I received my degree in the spring of 1991.

Since then I’ve served as the pastor of a number of Lutheran congregations in the region, taught history at four universities as an adjunct instructor, written extensively on the subject of salmon and their historic and contemporary importance to our regional culture and economy, been the recipient of a major grant, and volunteered and served on the boards of several non-profits working to preserve and enhance wild salmon and the watersheds that support them. My history degree from Portland State has helped open doors, forge relationships, and taken me in directions I could have never imagined when I first began my studies over 25 years ago. It is one of the best decisions I ever made. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities and new possibilities it has provided which, though difficult to quantify, have enriched my life immeasurably and made me a better pastor and a better-informed citizen of this special place.” John is a member of the Friends of History Board of Directors.

James Scott

James wrote in from California: “For the last 15 years I have been a reference librarian at the Sacramento Public Library. It’s there that I spend much of my time in our special collections helping researchers explore topics relative to local and regional history. My PSU emphasis was twentieth century German history, more specifically Nazi foreign policy in Iraq and the Levant, the furthest thing from most of the topics I’m involved with now. And yet, no matter the historical era or genre, the lessons I learned as an MA student at PSU transfer seamlessly. Frank West, David Johnson, and John Mandeville were terrific influences on me. After finishing my MA, I had a short stint as a teacher, but opted to get my Master’s in Library and Information Science. The degrees dovetailed beautifully—I was a trained historian who could help others solve whatever research problems they might have.

An SPL colleague and I are currently writing a monograph on the impacts of the First World War on the Sacramento Valley (History Press). I have a hard time seeing myself doing such a thing without that former experience of writing a thesis at PSU, one that really took me through the process of tackling a research problem.”
Luke Sprunger
Luke reports: “I am the archivist for the Schnitzer-Director Family History Archive (a private family archive) here in Portland. I am also working with The Museum of the City (see pg. 18) to coordinate the internship program and to raise funds for the museum. An article derived from my thesis, titled “‘This Is Where We Want to Stay’: Tejanos and Latino Community Building in Washington County,” will be published in the Fall 2015 issue of Oregon Historical Quarterly. From spring 2014 to spring 2015 I worked as a tour guide for Know Your City, giving walking tours of Portland’s multicultural history in Old Town.

My adviser, Katrine Barber, and a number of faculty members (especially David Johnson) were very helpful and supportive of me in my coursework and thesis. Carl Abbott and Susan Wladaver-Morgan, whom I worked with at the Pacific Historical Review, were very supportive of me as well. Marc Rodriguez provided me with sound, practical advice.

In order to succeed financially and professionally outside of academia, I have found it absolutely necessary to take on a variety of learning, working, and relationship-building endeavors to complement the work I completed in pursuit of my degree. Nevertheless, my work on the M.A. degree enabled me to greatly expand my abilities to build projects and address work-related challenges.

Kristin Teigen
(M.A. 2008, Thesis: “Locus of Control: The County Supremacy Movement and a Resilient Rebellion”) is a communications consultant and an instructor at PSU. She has been teaching University Capstone courses since 2012.

Karen Tosi
Karen recalls: “My experience with PSU History started with Charlie White and George Carbone, which led to my Master’s in History. What excellent teachers—both as scholars and mentors. As you may note, few of us have had jobs as historians per se. I have taught secondary social science, administered programs ranging from the Campfire Girls to business placement at Cornell to PSU’s secondary programs, written a book, run a business, and even tended bar (for my cousin)! The key to education is not a vocational goal. Few of us forecast so well that we can tailor our training to our jobs over a long lifetime. The bottom line is that my Master’s thesis taught me how to organize my thoughts, and get them into the typewriter (showing my age), and now my word processor. I wrote my thesis on Antonio Gramsci, who was a significant player in Italy’s pre-Second World War history. I will admit that I have had few conversations about Gramsci in my professional career. On the other hand, I have used the research and writing skills gained in my work on Gramsci many, many times.

Education is more than good attendance and memorization. It is about learning to learn and using what we learn. History is the best test bed for social policy. Social policy is not learned in a vacuum. It needs facts and analysis and, sometimes, inspiration. PSU supplied these for me.” Karen is a member of the Friends of History Board of Directors.

Seonaid Valiant
Seonaid is the Ayer Reference Librarian in the Reference and Genealogy Services Section at the Newberry Library in Chicago.
The National Park Service provided funding to **Katy Barber**, Associate Professor, and Donna Sinclair, Ph.D. and Portland State University alum, to conduct a study for the Vancouver Barracks, the U.S. Army’s first military post in the Pacific Northwest (est. 1849). The study will guide park staff in their historic interpretation of the barracks located at the Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

**Desmond Cheung** enjoyed a busy second year at PSU, teaching courses in East Asian history and Chinese history for the Department, as well as a class called “Encounters and Exchanges in World History” for University Studies. He gave two public talks at PSU: “Smash and Spit! Cultural Destruction at Urban Sites in Early Modern China” and “Negotiating Cultures: Chinese Christian Converts in the Ming-Qing Era.” He began the summer participating in a conference on Chinese statecraft at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He then gave a talk, “Hangzhou’s Famous Sites and Ming Society and Culture” (in Chinese), at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, where he spent two weeks conducting further research for his upcoming book.

**David del Mar** is the President and co-founder of Yo Ghana!, which connects about forty schools in the Pacific Northwest to Ghana through letter writing. These transformative exchanges help students in both places learn about each other first hand rather than through Hollywood stereotypes. Yo Ghana! also supports projects that its Ghana partner schools have initiated, such as helping to roof a structure that an isolated community built. When completed, the building will enable the school to reduce the average size of its kindergarten classes from ninety to fifty. The ten-member board of Yo Ghana also includes Dr. Yves Labissiere and Dr. Kofi Agorsah of PSU. David and Dr. Labissiere are also involved in several research projects to assess the impact of letter sharing on Ghanaian and American students, work that also includes Dr. Eric Ananga of the University of Education, Winneba, in Ghana and Ms. Marcella Chiromo, a doctoral student studying international psychology at the University of Chicago. Learn more about Yo Ghana! on their website and read their most recent newsletter. Please contact David (delmard@pdx.edu) if you are interested in donating to, or working with, Yo Ghana!

**Catherine McNeur**’s book, *Taming Manhattan: Environmental Battles in the Antebellum City*, won four major book awards: the Society for the History of the Early American Republic’s James H. Broussard First Book Prize, the American Society for Environmental History’s George Perkins Marsh Prize, the New York Society Library’s Hornblower Award, and the Victorian Society of America Metropolitan Chapter’s Book Award. She recently gave the keynote address at Oregon State University’s Environmental Humanities Symposium in Corvallis, presented a paper at the Society for the History of the Early American Republic’s conference in Raleigh, NC, and gave a lecture at the New York Academy of Medicine as part of their “Garbage in the City” series. Her New York lecture aired on C-Span American History TV. Her interview on PBS’s *Metrofocus* in New York will air in the fall.

This past year, **John Ott** gave three talks, in places ranging from Reno, NV, to Leeds, England, on subjects from dual-credit high school-to-college enrollment programs, to twelfth-century papal judges-delegate. His book, *Bishops, Community and Authority in Northwestern Europe, C. 1050-1150*, has been published by Cambridge University Press. He is looking forward to a sabbatical this coming year, during which he hopes to get caught up on the pile of projects languishing on his desk. He will also clean his office for the first time in four years.

**Marc Rodriguez** has completed his first year as Managing Editor of the *Pacific Historical Review* at Portland State. He is slowly learning the various unique aspects of managing a journal at a public research university, and wishes to thank Tim Garrison, David Johnson, and Carl Abbott for their support and sage advice. He has signed a contract with Routledge to write a survey of U.S. Latino History and is nearly done with his research project, “Migration, Museums, and National Memory in Global Perspective,” which he hopes will yield a scholarly article someday soon.
This spring, Professor Ken Ruoff was the recipient of the University’s prestigious Branford Price Millar Award for Faculty Excellence. The Northeast Asian History Foundation is preparing a Korean translation of his first book, *The People’s Emperor: Democracy and the Japanese Monarchy, 1945-1995*, the Japanese translation of which was awarded Japan’s equivalent of the Pulitzer Prize in 2004. Professor Ruoff gave a keynote address on “The Empire of Mobility: What Postcards Tell Us about the Empire of Japan” at “The Empire of Japan through Postcards” conference, held at Gakushuin University, Toshima, Tokyo, on May 18. He was also the keynote speaker at the conference “Rethinking of the Historical Consciousness Problem in East Asia—The Case between Japan and Korea,” held at the International House of Japan (Tokyo), March 17-18, 2015, sponsored by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and organized by Professor Jun Furuya. Professor Ruoff also presented two keynote addresses at Portland State on memory wars in East Asia — a 2-part series which included: “Memory Wars in East Asia I: Pluralistic Memories of the Past in Japan” and “Memory Wars in East Asia II: Master Narratives of Modern Korean History Told in Museums in Korea.”

This summer, Friedrich Schuler focused on advancing his manuscript analyzing U.S., British, German, French, Brazilian, and Argentine imperialism in Latin America between 1900 and 1915. He is happy to report that he completed a respectful first draft of 600 pages. For this upcoming book, he read records in Hamburg’s State Archive in Germany.

Friedrich also traveled to Doorn, Holland where he found a collection of 3,000 unstudied documents. Wilhelm II, the German emperor, never returned to Germany after November 1918. Finding refuge in Holland, he kept documents dealing with the years between 1914 and 1918; the documents have remained there ever since. During the next few months Dr. Schuler will attempt to gain access to them and see what they might say about Latin America and the U.S. during World War I.

On July 16, 2015, Dr. Schuler presented a well-attended talk at the Otto von Bismarck Foundation, Germany’s premier 19th century history research institute. The title of his presentation was “Instead of Samba it was a Frightening Rollercoaster Ride: Wilhelm II’s Imperialism Experiences in Brazil (1895-1915).”

Jennifer Tappan completed her manuscript on the history of childhood malnutrition in Uganda, which will be published by Ohio University Press as part of their new series: Perspectives on Global Health. She completed an article revisiting the early history of midwifery training in Uganda and continued her work on the history of yellow fever in Africa. In November she will present a paper at the African Studies Association Conference examining the relationship between the unique ecology of yellow fever in Africa and shifting burdens of disease.

Brian Turner published “The Provinces and Worldview of Velleius Paterculus” in an edited volume, *Aspects of Ancient Institutions and Geography: Studies in Honor of Richard J.A. Talbert* (Brill, 2015). He presented a reassessment of the so-called Batavian Revolt at the annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest (Portland, OR) and was invited to speak about Roman war losses at Newman University (Wichita, KS). With Jessica Clark of Florida State University, Professor Turner organized and chaired a panel called “The Other Side of Victory: War Losses in the Ancient World” at the annual meeting of the Society of Classical Studies (New Orleans, LA). The results of this panel are currently being expanded and prepared for publication with Brill. Brian currently serves as the Vice-President of the Classical Association of the Pacific Northwest and Associate Editor of *Pleiades*. 
Victoria Belco is currently in Italy on a research trip and vacation. She is examining the salience of crime and criminal justice in Fascist Italy.

Karen Carr continues to work on her history encyclopedia website, now transitioning from History for Kids to a more inclusive site for all interested readers at Quatr.us. The site now serves about a million visitors a month. Recent additions include the early history of Japan and a lot of work on Central Asia. She’s also writing a book on the social history of swimming, investigating the use of swimming as a class marker and cultural identifier from the Stone Age to the twenty-first century. With the free time generated by not teaching, she’s running the PDX Free Store, a monthly gathering where anyone can give away what they don’t want and take whatever they need.

Susan Karant-Nunn is the Director of the Division for Late Medieval and Reformation Studies at the University of Arizona (Tucson); and, since 2009, the Regents’ Professor of History. The Division is an institute for graduate study in the area of early modern European history, with all students taking their degrees in the History Department.

Susan reports, “I and one particular staff member have raised 3.5 million dollars and endowed both faculty positions in the Division. During 2015-2016, I am on my last sabbatical leave before retiring and am about to leave for Germany.” She is writing a book on Martin Luther’s personal life.

Bill Lang lives in Welches, where he measures precipitation, plays golf, and keeps out of bureaucratic trouble.

When not enjoying the mountain, he works on public history projects, including revising the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma. He just finished a three-year term on the Oregon Historical Society Board of Trustees.


Charles LeGuin asks: “What do retired professors do (unless they’re the ever youthful and energetic Charlie White)? This one, living in the house he moved into soon after he came to Portland in 1959, divides his time between reading, gardening (diminishing amounts of that, alas), and family, with the added pleasure of occasional coffees and lunches with former colleagues (among them Charlie White), enjoying their company, news of their activities, and our common reminiscences.”
Caroline Litzenberger sends greetings from the “Retired Zone.” Caroline reports that: “Life is just as busy as ever! I spend a significant amount of time on regional and local church (diocesan and parish) matters. In addition, I’m working to one degree or another on two writing projects: “The View from the Pews: The English Reformation from the Ground Up” (no footnotes involved), and a book inspired by my great-grandmother’s writings about girls’/women’s experiences growing up on the Olympic Peninsula and Puget Sound. I also try to find time to swim and exercise with some regularity, although I haven’t been very successful. My highest priority is spending time with my grandsons—there are now TWO, ages 5 and 8—and that involves lots of trips to and from Massachusetts, but it’s worth every mile and every minute!”

Jon Mandaville declares that “Retirement means the glorious freedom to schedule my life as I like, but it’s not surprising that what I do with that schedule is pretty much the same as before. I’m still teaching Middle East history (it’s my life), but I teach online. I turn out book reviews, staying in touch with the field. I’ve been elected president of the North American Association for Islamic and Muslim Studies, a national academic organization headquartered back east. We’re negotiating with a university press to publish our new journal, the Journal of Islamic and Muslim Studies. I now have still more respect for David Johnson’s long tenure as Managing Editor of the Pacific Historical Review. Don’t get me wrong—there’s plenty room for playing in the life of an emeritus. Diane and I manage a trip or two to Kauai, and so the good life goes.”

Thomas D. “Tom” Morris tells us, “I am currently working on a study of mixed-race juries in South Carolina during Reconstruction. It is a study of the effort to give meaning to the notion of equality or equal protection of the law. It is also a study of the notion of “rights” and “citizenship” after the Civil War. W. E. B. DuBois was the first historian to mention them and gave them only a sentence or two. Historians who have alluded to those juries have been superficial in their treatment, and they have not made use of the records where the day to day experiences occurred. The county records are a treasure trove. I am using those records to answer such basic questions as who sat on these juries in different regions of the state. In one county, for example, the jury might be dominated by members of the Klan, while it was more likely to be a jury with a majority of male persons of color along the coast. It is more complex, but this might give you a sense of the uncertainty involved in how this effort to establish equality in American law developed. What was it like for a former slave to sit with whites, including their former masters whose wealth rested on the exploitation of their labor? It is a book-length study and is about three-fourths written. Hopefully, it will contribute to our grasp of the legacy in race relations that came in the wake of Civil War and emancipation.

Since I became an emeritus I have had a couple of opportunities to stay engaged in the academy. On one occasion I introduced an early version of some of the thoughts that have since become part of the jury study. That was at a graduate level history seminar at Harvard. I also taught a class at Cleveland-Marshall School of Law as a distinguished visiting professor of legal history. That led to an article on military justice in the South during Reconstruction. Since I have moved on to the post-slavery period I decided to donate my library (the part dealing with slavery) to an HBCU in the South. After research as to which institution needed them most, I settled on Xavier University in New Orleans. Their library had been damaged by Katrina, and they needed the books.

Outside the academy, it’s been a time to travel. In the last decade we have been to Vietnam, China, Mexico, several islands in the West Indies (most notable were Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad, and Haiti), Turkey, Yugoslavia, and the British Isles. We also lived in Perugia for three months, and in a couple of weeks we are heading for London and on to Madrid, Barcelona, and Toledo.
Fred Nunn says: “Both Susan Karant-Nunn and I are enjoying the summer here in Portland. Both she and Michael Reardon are far more “actively retired” than I am (Susan is still at Arizona, and Michael has done wonders leading that new Vietnamese university), but here are some of my own activities since, say 2010. In 2009-2010, I was Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of National Security Affairs, Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, National Defense University, in Washington, D.C. There we all focused on civil-military/inter-agency cooperation, defense and security fiscal and administrative issues, and, well, some more practical security matters. I spent time in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, El Salvador, and Dominican Republic during my tenure as dean and professor. In 2011 and 2013, two articles and a book of mine (on topics just mentioned) were published in Spanish in Santiago, Chile. At present, I still travel a lot in both Asia and Europe. This coming year, I will be with Susan while she is on sabbatical in Berlin; I’ll be doing some reading at Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut—the largest collection in Europe devoted to Latin America.

Michael Reardon reports: “After I finished my year as Interim President of Portland State in 2008, I thought I was finally retired; but a few months later I was asked to go to Vietnam and visit a new university, Eastern International University, that was about to open in Binh Duong province. Two days after I got there, they asked if I would accept the position of Co-President. The university was built and is owned by one of the large Vietnamese corporations, Becamex IDC. It was to be one of the anchor institutions of a new city being built about 40 miles north of Ho Chi Minh.

So in September of 2011, I moved to Vietnam and have been spending seven to eight months a year there. We will graduate our first students this December. I mainly work on university organization and advancement and developing connections with American universities. My Vietnamese counterpart, Dr. Nguyen Phuc, has to handle the complex waters of Vietnamese bureaucracy.

I have had the opportunity to travel throughout Vietnam and to make friends with some of the most hospitable, generous, and fun people in the world. A number of PSU administrators and faculty have visited and helped us. Dean Ren Su has been invaluable in assisting us with our Engineering program as has Dean Scott Dawson in our Business program. Fred Nunn visited, and he and I made a special visit to Dien Bien Phu to marvel at General Gyap’s military strategy.

I did volunteer to teach the required course on Marxist-Leninism but was told politely but firmly that that was not possible. Nor could I become a Party member. Oh well. All in all it has been one of the most interesting experiences. I am slowly winding it down now but will continue until next September.”
When she retired in 2013, Linda Walton envisioned spending lots of time sitting around in cafes reading whatever she felt like, and continuing to do research in Chinese history. She reports, “It is true that time seems more elastic now, but I have been much busier than I ever anticipated, and my relationship with PSU and the History Department remains important to me.

I am on the Friends of History board, the Institute for Asian Studies Steering Committee, and in the fall and winter terms last year I served as acting chair of the English Department—an unexpected, challenging, and rewarding experience. In the past two years I attended two international conferences (one in Seoul, South Korea, pictured at right) as well as regional and national conferences. I also found time for some new travel to Europe, including Italy (pictured left), and playing the flute.”

Charles M. “Charlie” White responded by telling us that, “First of all, emeritus should be understood. It comes from the Latin e, meaning “out,” and meritus, meaning “so he ought to be.” Definition by Stephen Leacock, Canadian academic, author, humanist and humorist, in his Here are My Lectures (1938).

Charlie’s report is succinct but full of information:


Spends a lot of time gardening in his community garden plot; takes surplus produce to charity weekly. Last year Sewallcrest, his community garden, donated over two tons of produce. Audits two courses per term at PSU; has discovered that History Department teachers are among the best in the U.S. Plays poker regularly and wins occasionally. Reads continually. Gives presentations occasionally about Canada or The Columbia Gorge. Addicted to Sudoku.”

Charlie closes his report with two more Leacock quotes:

“To go into teaching was a matter of sheer necessity. My education had fitted me for nothing except to pass it on to the other people (from The Boy I left Behind Me) and, “About the only good thing you can say about old age is, it’s better than being dead” (from “This Business of Growing Old” in Reader’s Digest (March, 1940)).
Thanks to the generous financial support of Friends of History, on April 9-11, 2015, eight Portland State University history students presented original research papers at the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference in Chelan, Washington.

Catherine Valentine won the prize for best paper at the conference by a graduate student.

From left to right, the participants and their paper titles:

- **Kira H. Lesley** (graduate), “Religious Trends in Early Modern English and Scottish Balladry”
- **Matthew J. Biskye** (undergraduate): “Mental Terror, Mathematically Insignificant: The Failure of Imperial Germany to Properly Develop its Submarine Fleet in the First World War”
- **Carla E. Curtis** (graduate): “Contested Narratives of the Astoria Column – 1926”
- **W. Forrest Holden** (undergraduate), “Feminine Domesticity and National Character in Early Nineteenth-Century Imperial Russia”
- **Alexandra A. Hawes** (graduate), “A Marvel in its Place: Portland’s Twice-Civilizing Pioneer Courthouse, 1875-1975”
- **Catherine J. Valentine** (graduate), “Disease and the Transatlantic Slave Trade”
- **Kelly M. Linss** (undergraduate): “Friendship, Power and Intrigue at the Court of Henry II of England during the Chancellorship of Thomas Becket, 1155-1162”
- **Dr. Thomas M. Luckett**, faculty advisor to Phi Alpha Theta

Professor Luckett notes, “Every year the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference provides a wonderful opportunity for students to present historical research in a professional setting, receive comments from experts in their field, and meet other history students from across the Pacific Northwest. In April, 2016, the conference will meet in Bellingham, Washington, and we hope once again to send a delegation of PSU history students.”

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.
The Museum of the City

The Museum of the City, a nonprofit that offers students and other scholars an opportunity to publish their research on urban topics, is raising funds with a crowdfunding campaign to help cover staff and technology expenses.

The Museum of the City hosts exhibits on its website for the benefit of more than 7,000 visitors each month. The fundraising effort is coordinated by Luke Sprunger, who received his M.A. in History at Portland State; most of the exhibit creators are Portland State University students. Students gain valuable academic and professional skills through the research, writing, and submission processes, and have their work available in an accessible and engaging online format.

The Museum will host a fundraiser page on Razoo.com through October 1. We encourage you to visit the site, make a contribution, and share this message with friends and colleagues.

Preview of Upcoming Lectures

WINTER 2016  John Ott, Professor of History, Portland State University
SPRING 2016  Harold James, Professor of History, Princeton University
FALL 2016  Timothy Brook, Professor of History, University of British Columbia
SPRING 2017  Richard J. A. Talbert, Professor of History, University of North Carolina
FALL 2017  Margaret MacMillan, Professor Emerita, University of Oxford

SEE more EVENTS at pdx.edu/history/events

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