Greetings!

The History department has a rather new look this fall. Kris Alexanderson joined us on a tenure line in world history and Susan Hogue returned to fill in for Marisela Ramos during her maternity leave. Caroline Cox continues to recover from surgery and treatment and will be back in the Spring to teach History of Warfare and serve as the Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs. She’ll keep an office in WPC, room 210, right next to the Social Science hub. Her telephone number and email address will remain the same. Bill Swagerty is on sabbatical and will also return in Spring 2014. Classes were heavily enrolled this fall in favorites like World History, U.S. Survey, California History, Colonialism in Latin America and East Asian Civilization as well as new offerings in Big History and The History of Alcohol and Intoxicants. We are just a few weeks away from our senior Capstone research presentations on December 3rd and 5th in the Regents room. We especially invite alums and friends of the department to join us for a light lunch with some delicious history for dessert. See p. 3 in the newsletter for more details.

The university is in the midst of an elaborate planning and budget reallocation process called “Funding our Future.” It’s a bit like a program review, in that it involves us crafting an “alignment review” of our department to determine if we are in step with the overall strategic direction of the university. Alert readers may recall that we are also in the middle of our once-every-ten-years program review. This review is still under way, though delayed. We hope to have our external review team do its campus visit in the spring. We will provide the full report on our webpage when that process is completed next year. The History faculty continues to write, research, publish and teach on essential parts of our human story on earth. We are always pleased to hear from alums. Send photos and your updates to grohlf@pacific.edu or to historynews@pacific.edu

Greg
Welcome to
Dr. Kris Alexanderson, the newest member of the history department. Professor Ramos interviewed her for the newsletter.

Ramos: Why did you choose the study of history as a career?
Alexanderson: I’ve been passionate about history since my freshman year of college when I accidentally stumbled into a European history course. History came alive for me and helped me understand the world in which we live and my place in it.

Ramos: What do you enjoy most about being a professor?
Alexanderson: I love my job! Working with students is an extremely rewarding experience and I often find that I learn as much from them as they do from me.

Ramos: Tell us about your research or a project you are currently working on.
Alexanderson: I am currently working on a book manuscript that explores the unique and vital role that shipping companies played in expanding colonial politics, culture, and society across transnational maritime networks during the 1920's and 30's. I look particularly at the Dutch Empire in Southeast Asia and trace the movement of colonial subjects and transgressive ideas between port cities such as Jakarta, Djeddah, Shanghai, Kobe, and Rotterdam.

Ramos: What do you remember most about your own college experience?
Alexanderson: My undergraduate years were an amazing time of personal growth and intellectual exploration. My undergraduate years [at Bard College] helped shape me into the person I am today and I’ll always remember my college experience with extreme gratitude and affection.

Ramos: What advice do you have for current history majors?
Alexanderson: The study of history is an important aspect of a liberal arts education and I hope that our history majors take pride in the intellectual work they are doing here at Pacific. Take advantage of everything the campus has to offer, including getting to know your professors. I also believe that, if possible, participating in a study abroad program can help our history majors expand their perspectives on the world around them.

Ramos: What are you most looking forward to at Pacific?
Alexanderson: As someone from New York, I’m very excited about the California winters! All joking aside, I can’t wait to fully integrate myself into Pacific’s intellectually stimulating and culturally rich campus. I’ve enjoyed getting to know students and colleagues so far this semester and encourage everyone to drop by my office and say hello.

In spring of 2013, the Alpha Mu Omega chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at the University of the Pacific initiated five new members: Emily Reber, Jennifer A. Paul, Joshua John Rayburn, John P. Imfeld, and Megan L. Piper. The chapter club is currently headed by president Justin Hough. Two chapter members, John Langdon and Julia Rowe, have been invited to present their research at the national biennial research conference of PAT in Albuquerque in January 2014. Langdon’s paper, “Iola Brubeck: Social Justice Advocacy Through Jazz And Sacred Choral Music,” uses primary source research from the Brubeck Collection at the University of the Pacific. Rowe’s paper, “The Virginia Delegation: Decision to Sign the Constitution,” makes use of national documents at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. where Rowe spent the fall 2013 semester participating in the Washington Semester Program.

Phi Alpha Theta (ФАΘ) is an American honor society for undergraduate and graduate students and professors of history. The society has over 350,000 members, with about 9,500 new members joining each year through 860 local chapters. See more at: http://phialphatheta.org/about#sthash.jwNK3LzB.dpuf
HISTORY DEPT. PRE-REGISTRATION PIZZA PARTY

Each fall, the department gathers current students and faculty for lunch to catch up and talk about course offerings for the spring. This year, we met in the GHES center (Gender Studies, Humanities and Ethnic Studies) on October 15th. Members of Phi Alpha Theta were there to spread the word about the honor society and our first year students were introduced to the History and Social Sciences major community.

HISTORY CAPSTONE STUDENTS TO PRESENT RESEARCH

Pacific’s senior history majors have been hard at work in the Capstone Research Seminar preparing their research papers. Several of this year’s eleven seniors are using the Holt-Atherton collection’s rich materials. Students’ projects address a range of topics from the political motives behind Japanese Internment and Pacific’s baseball history, to the currencies of trade during the California Gold Rush and the history of safe drinking water in California.

In addition to preparing research papers, students took several field trips. Students visited the California State Archives in Sacramento and the San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum in September to learn about the archival holdings, about how museums function, and about what goes into creating exhibits.

We invite alumni and friends of the history department to join us in the Regents’ Room at the University of the Pacific from 12-3 p.m. on December 3 and 5, 2013. Listen to student research presentations and to celebrate their accomplishments.
On behalf of the History department, I am pleased to announce Joe Graham as the recipient of the Jedediah Smith scholarship for 2013-2014. This award acknowledges his excellent work in the discipline of history, his interest in U.S. West history, and his interest in becoming an educator. Congratulations, Joe. Superb work!

Gregory Rohlf, Chair, History Department

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**STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS**

**John Langdon**, senior, class of 2013, served as “communication coordinator,” for the student conference, *Perspectives, Power, and America's Gaze*, held at Pacific on October 9th. This was Pacific’s first student-run undergraduate research conference. Langdon was charged with contacting and soliciting paper proposals from student presenters at local universities. He also presented his own paper titled, "From New Orleans to Bombay: African Americans Jazz Musicians in India." The paper focused on African-American jazz musicians who fled racism and segregation at home and found acceptance in 1920s India. He argued that these musicians acted as cultural ambassadors for the United States long before the State Department jazz tours of the 1950s. Langdon is also a member of Phi Alpha Theta. For an article about the conference from the Pacifican go to: [http://thepacificanonline.com/wp/2013/10/perspectives-power-and-americas-gaze-research-conference/](http://thepacificanonline.com/wp/2013/10/perspectives-power-and-americas-gaze-research-conference/)

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**Devon Clayton**, class of 2012, is a second year graduate student in the History Masters program specializing in Public History. As part of her program she has taken courses on topics as diverse as Historiography and “The Environment in American History.” For the latter course she blogged and live Skyped with Donald Worster, a leading scholar in the field of environmental history. For her master’s project and internship she is working at the Holt-Atherton Archives and Special Collections at Pacific and will be creating a women’s history digital collection, and hopefully a working online exhibit of Stockton-focused women’s history, highlighting the Stockton Immigrant Women Collection, Pacific’s Emeriti Oral History Collection, Stockton Speaks and other hidden gems of the Holt-Atherton archives.

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**Ignacio Sanchez-Alonso**, class of 2012, began a Master’s program in Public History at California State University of Sacramento. While at Pacific Ignacio worked at the Holt-Atherton Special Collections library, which helped him solidify his interest in Public History. This summer he began a year-long internship position at the California state archives in Sacramento where he has been working on processing records for a collection for the Senate Health Committee. He is in charge of writing the committee’s history as well as writing the finding aid for the collection. He is looking forward to learning more about coding finding aids for online public use, preservation and security, and organizing electronic records. Ignacio has also enjoyed participating in public outreach activities like Family History Day and Archives Crawl.

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**Lloyd Barba**, class of 2009, began the PhD program in American Culture at the University of Michigan in the fall of 2010 as a 5-year Rackham Merit Fellow. In December 2012 he completed his doctoral comprehensive exams. As a graduate student instructor (T.A.) he was nominated by his department as that year’s “Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor.” He has presented his research on race, religion, and pacifism at several national conferences including the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies, The Society for Pentecostal Studies, and The Society for Military History. He is currently preparing a chapter of his dissertation for the Red de Investigadores del Fenómeno Religioso en Mexico (Research Network of Religious Phenomena in Mexico) conference to be held in Mexico City next May. He is now back in his hometown of Stockton, conducting interviews and archival research throughout California. His dissertation “California’s Cross,” examines the social and cultural ramifications of migration on the formation of religious communities in the Central Valley 1900 -1965. He owes his success in graduate school to his professors and mentors at Pacific in the departments of History and Religious Studies.
**FACULTY NEWS**

**Congratulations** to Prof. Greg Rohlf for being this year’s Corson award recipient. "The Stephen E. Corson Award was established in 2004 by the Reverend John E. Corson, former Pacific Regent, and Sylvia Bradbury Corson, in memory of their son, Stephen Edmund Corson, who passed away at the age of 38. The award is given each year to one faculty member in the College of the Pacific who has distinguished himself or herself in the teaching of freshmen students."

**Jennifer Helgren** presented *Peace, Global Responsibility, and Girlhood in the United States* at the History Department Colloquium in October. Her talk examined internationalism in girls' organizations following World War II. Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts learned about the United Nations and wrote pen-pal letters as goodwill ambassadors. Helgren's paper is part of her current book project.


**Gregory Rohlf** was an invited presenter at the “Spatial Transformations in China’s Borderlands” conference hosted by the Institute for Social Anthropology at the University of Bern in Switzerland on October 31-November 1. His paper was entitled, “Continuity and Change in Urban Forms in Kham.”

**Jennifer Helgren** received a grant to visit the Sophia Smith Collections at Smith College to continue her research on internationalism and girlhood in the post World War II period.


Please provide addresses of anyone you know whom you think would like to receive a copy of the History Newsletter.

Thank you!

**HISTORY CHECK: LIVING HISTORY MEETS YOUTUBE**

Living History museums can be a fun way to learn about history. They are active and engaging. You can see and feel what living during a particular time period or in a particular place was like, as well as interact with characters from that time period. But, they can also be a way to challenge, if not expand, our historical knowledge. They can serve as a way to peek into people's historical psyches (if there is such a thing). Actress Azie Mira Dungey, who portrayed Lizzie Mae, housemaid to George and Martha Washington at George Washington’s Mount Vernon, has created a web series, “Ask A Slave,” using real questions that she was asked by visitors. One such question is, “what does George Washington think of Abraham Lincoln freeing all of his slaves?”

While some questions clearly demonstrate a lack of historical understanding on the part of visitors, for those of us who cannot visit Mount Vernon, Dungey has found a clever way to educate us about the life of Lizzie Mae. While the series is satirical in nature, Dungey makes no attempt to underplay what life might have been like for Lizzie Mae and other slaves of her time.

“Ask A Slave” has received accolades from *New York Magazine*, *L.A. Weekly*, *Mother Jones*, and *Jezebel*, among others.

For more information about the web series and to watch the videos go to: [http://www.askaslave.com/](http://www.askaslave.com/)
SUPPORT HISTORY
AT PACIFIC!

We invite you to become involved in the education of our current students. Underwriting opportunities exist for donors at all levels of support. Your gifts help support field trips, and the Phi Alpha Theta chapter.

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Editor: Susan Mitchell

HTTP://WEB.PACIFIC.EDU

FALL 13 CHAIR’S SEMINAR STUDENTS

Front: Julian Galves, Nicole Felkins.
Back row, l-r, Alex Montgomery, Alyssa Rodriguez, Paul Lee

D E P A R T M E N T  O F  H I S T O R Y ’ S  F A L L  2 0 1 3  N E W S L E T T E R

SPRING 2014 CLASSES

Western Civilization I  HIST 11  A. Agocs
U.S. History I I  HIST 21  J. Helgren
The Problem with Latin America  HIST 41  M. Ramos
World History I I  HIST 51  K. Alexanderson
John Juir’s World: Consrv Mvmt  HIST 52  B. Swagerty
History of Medicine  HIST 60  K. Albala
History of Warfare  HIST 62  C. Cox
Hist. of Science & Technology  HIST 63  K. Alexanderson
Renaissance & Reformation  HIST 100  K. Albala
Europe Since 1945  HIST 113  A. Agocs
American Immigration  HIST 132  J. Helgren
“HIS-PANIC” USA  HIST 137  M. Ramos
Imperial China  HIST 141  G. Rohlf

Got an idea for a story in the History Newsletter?
Email it to historynews@pacific.edu

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